

Treasures of Jordan

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Jordan

Trip code: JDN10-WHW10

Trip Walking Grade: 1/2

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 1858kg CO2



Holiday Overview

For Lawrence of Arabia-style adventures, incredible archaeology, and an immeasurable number of natural wonders, this calm corner of the Middle East delivers. Explore Jerash widely regarded as one of the best preserved Roman cities in the world. 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 YOU'LL LOVE

- 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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Local Tour Manager who leads walks and sightseeing
- 9 nights' touring accommodation across Jordan
- A night in a traditional Bedouin desert camp
- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 9 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- All in-destination transport
- Return flights from the UK including baggage and transfers

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This trip is graded level 2, high end of leisurely. It is a mix of walking and sightseeing, and you do need to be a regular walker and have a good level of mobility, stamina and fitness for walking days, especially in Petra. The terrain will be uneven; in Petra there are many rocky steps and some sections are steep. Your Tour Manager will explain what to expect and suggest alternatives if you if you prefer not to do any of the sections.

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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 is about exploring all the highlights of Amman. We begin with the Citadel ruins which tower over Amman and offer 360-degree views over the city. After learning about the city's ancient history, we will walk down stone stairs to Hashemite Square which is a vibrant hub linking modern life with relics from the past like the Roman Theatre. Take a steep but rewarding climb up the stairs, find a good seat and imagine Roman actors entertaining the

crowds.

We walk through bustling souks filled with Jordanian handicrafts, golden jewellery, Dead Sea products, nuts and spices, and local produce. During this walk, you might like to sample local drinks such as fresh sugar cane juice, a refreshing Limonana, or strong Bedouin tea. Lunch is at one of Jordan's oldest and most famous local eateries, known for falafel, hummus, and other mezze-style dishes. Finish off with a sweet treat of kunafa (cheese pastry soaked in sugary syrup). Our last stop is King Abdullah Mosque, known as the blue mosque for its beautiful tile work inside and out.

Day 4 Wadi Bin Hammad and Dana Biosphere Reserve

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent and Descent: minimal

We head south to the Al-Karak region for a walk through Wadi Bin Hammad. This narrow river gorge is a less visited oasis known for its dramatic canyon walls, warm springs, waterfalls and lush plant life.

Following our walk, we continue south to the Dana Biosphere Reserve. This area of outstanding beauty has a melting pot of species from Europe, Africa and Asia. So far, a total of 800 plant species and near 500 animal species have been recorded. These include over 200 bird species, 38 mammal species and a range of reptiles and amphibians. We are staying deep in the heart of the mountains at an ecolodge hailed as one of the best 25 in the world.

Day 5 Wadi Dana Trail and on to Petra

Distance: 8.5 miles (14km)

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

This morning, we take a short walk and explore the ancient copper mines in Feynan. Afterwards, we'll drive to Dana, an historic village on a mountainside overlooking the spectacular Dana Biosphere Reserve. We will enjoy a lunch of local dishes including salads, and seasonal sides prepared by villagers before a walk on the Shaq Al Reesh Trail. On a guided walk of approximately 3 hours, keep your eyes peeled for rare wildlife such as the Nubian ibex, caracal wild cat, and lesser kestrel. Following the hike, we drive to Petra for our three-night stay.

Day 6 Petra

Distance: approx. 6 miles (9.5km)

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.

This full day tour of Petra's main site covers all the highlights including Djinn Blocks, Obelisk Tomb, the Dam, the Siq, the Treasury, Street of Facades, Theatre, Nymphaeum, Colonnaded Street, Winged Lion Temple, Great Temple, and Qasr al-Bint. There will be plenty of stops and rest opportunities

Day 7 Petra Back Trail and the Monastery

Distance: approx. 7 miles (12km)

We travel by bus to Little Petra, a less crowded part of the city believed to be a suburb that served as a caravanserai for traders on ancient routes. We get back on the bus for a short drive to the Petra Back Trail which takes a trail leading to the Monastery a façade – a spot that's as special as the iconic Treasury but in a remote mountaintop location. From here, we descend to the main Petra site via 800 steps.

Day 8 Petra to 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.

From Petra we join the Desert Highway heading south to the stunning desert landscape of Wadi Rum. We arrive at Wadi Rum village where we transfer to 4x4 vehicles for an exhilarating trip to our camp in the heart of the desert. This otherworldly Martian-like landscape has inspired many including T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), who described it as "vast, echoing, and Godlike". It has also served as a setting for numerous films including Lawrence of Arabia, The Martian, Dune, and Star Wars. Human presence in the Wadi stretches back 12,000 years when nomadic hunter-gatherers roamed its canyons and later the Nabataeans used it as a vital trade route stop, building water systems including cisterns and dams. The Bedouin presence became dominant from the 5th Century onwards and despite their mobile phones, 4x4s, and houses of today, they still enjoy nothing better than sleeping under the stars in the desert. We arrive at a small, remote Bedouin camp for a peaceful two-night stay.

Day 9 Exploring Wadi Rum

Waking up to be greeted by the vast red desert will be a memory that will stay with you forever. After breakfast it is time to explore with a gentle guided walk in the Umm Sabata area (southern Wadi Rum). Umm is an honorific term meaning "mother of" while Sabata means to rest or pause. Its silent red cliffs with white sandstone peaks, serve as a key landmark for the Bedouins. There are shady spots where we will stop to rest and stand in awe of the profound peace.

We return to camp for lunch and free time. Later this afternoon, we take a 4x4 tour covering the northern part of Wadi Rum, including Siq Al Khazali famous for its ancient Nabataean and Thamudic rock drawings that date back over 2,000 years, Lawrence's Spring a natural freshwater spring in the mountains where camels once drank, offering panoramic views of the desert and red sand dunes you can climb. The tour includes a stop at a Bedouin tent for tea. We return to our camp where we will enjoy another home-cooked dinner.

Day 10 Dead Sea

Leaving the desert behind, we drive back up north to Madaba, home to the Mosaic Map which is the oldest surviving representation of the Holy Lands. From here we head to Mt Nebo where the bible states Moses saw the Promised Land before he died.

Our final evening in Jordan is located at the lowest land area on earth – the Dead Sea. This unique natural phenomenon has been attracting visitors for thousands of years and features in religious texts. Our resort has a private white-sand beach where you can walk into the warm waters, lie back and float without any effort. The waters and the mud are used in therapeutic treatments and products. Our farewell dinner has a central buffet and several live cooking stations.

Day 11 Return Flight

Transfer to the Queen Alia International Airport for return flights. We do not have to go through busy Amman to get to the airport.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.

Accommodation

Feynan Ecolodge, Dana Biosphere Reserve – Jordan

Hailed as one of the best 25 ecolodges in the world by National Geographic Traveler magazine, the award-winning, solar-powered 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.

Mohammed Mutlak 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, Dead Sea Resort & Spa – Jordan

Sitting on the shores of the Dead Sea, this hotel and resort boasts its own private white sand beach and both indoor and outdoor pools. There is a large stylish lounge, and the Promenade Bar has stunning sea views. Rooms are contemporary in style and come with air-conditioning, a coffee maker, TV, free Wi-Fi and a fully stocked mini bar. The bathroom has a bath/shower combination.

Petra Moon Luxury Hotel, Petra – Jordan

The Petra Moon Luxury Hotel boasts an enviable location just a short walk to Petra's entrance. Be wowed by the panoramic views from the rooftop terrace where you will find an outdoor pool and hot tub (open weather dependent) and a bar that serves Arabic coffee and Bedouin mint tea, as well as other non-alcoholic beverages. Rooms have air-conditioning, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, small fridge, blackout curtains and free Wi-Fi.

Corp Amman Hotel, Amman – Jordan

A 4-star hotel located in the Al Shmeisani area which has good facilities including shops, cafes, and currency exchange services making it an ideal location for travellers. It has pleasant bar/lounge areas, a lobby café, an outdoor pool, (seasonal) a gym and spa facilities. (payable locally) Rooms are spacious and modern with tea/coffee making facilities, small fridge, TV and air-conditioning.

Useful Holiday Information

We avoid the summer heat travelling in spring and autumn. In spring you can expect warm to hot days while coastal/desert areas like the Dead Sea are much hotter. The nights are usually cooler. In autumn, you can expect hot to warm days and cooler nights as the year progresses. Wadi Rum has a desert climate with warm to hot days with the temperature dropping significantly in the evening through to the early morning. Packing layers is a good plan.

Essentials

- Walking boots that have ankle support and good grip
- Quick drying clothing, waterproof shoes or walking sandals with good grip (for day 4 walk)
- Lightweight clothing for the heat
- Jacket/jumper for night time in the desert
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Torch (handy for Wadi Rum)
- Water bottle (water is provided throughout the tour)
- Rucksack/day pack
- Camera/mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles (if you prefer using them)
- Swimwear and travel towel (hotels have pools & for the Dead Sea)
- Flip flops if you are going into the Dead Sea (sand can be hot & the sea rocky under foot)

Optional

- Mat (something small to sit on for picnics or rest stops when walking)

Trip Information

Please 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.. Please then call our emergency number (sent in your final dispatch) and let us know there is a problem.

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.

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 or www.traveldoctor.co.uk

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

Passports

A full British Citizen passport is required for travel to Jordan and must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry. If you hold a passport of a different nationality please check the travel requirements from your local embassy.

Visas

For travel to Jordan, your visa is arranged on your behalf whether you are travelling on the group flight or independently. The Jordanian authorities currently advise that there is no visa charge for stays of less than 30 days, provided a minimum of two nights are spent in Jordan. To enable our local agent to arrange your visa, you must supply your passport details at least 8 weeks prior to departure.

Tripnote validity

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY 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.

Document produced: 12 August 2026

