

Your passport to adventure

A Week in Jordan

Country(ies): Jordan

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minivan/minibus/coach & Bedouin jeeps

in Wadi Rum

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 8 days

Start Location: Amman, Jordan

End Location: Amman, Jordan

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 1

Highlights:

Amman, Bethany Baptism Site, As-Salt Daily LifeTrail, Jerash Roman ruins, Amman Food Tasting, Wild Jordan Centre, Madaba mosaics, Mt Nebo views, scenic King's Highway, Shobak crusader castle, Full day in Petra, Wadi Rum jeep safari & Bedouin camp, Overnight stay at the Dead Sea, Desert Castles & reserves



Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Jordan! Hotel transfers included

Once you've landed at the airport, we'll be there to meet you and transfer you to your hotel in Jordan's bustling capital city of Amman. After helping you check in and pointing you to any local shops, cafes or restaurants, you're free to explore Amman independently before our sightseeing starts tomorrow.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level Single room supplement - Standard Hotels (JOSHWJ) Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Superior level Single room supplement - Superior Hotels (JOSHWJ)

Day 2: Visit As-Salt and experience the 'Daily Life Trail'. Visit the Baptism Site in Bethany

We start the day with a visit to the hilltop town of As-Salt, a UNESCO World Heritage site recognised for its tolerance and hospitality, which once served as a trading link between the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Desert. As-Salt is known for its impressive Ottoman-era architecture built using yellow limestone, with distinctive domed roofs and arched windows.

Today, the town serves as an example of the religious and cultural friendship between the local Muslim & Christian population. To experience its authentic atmosphere, we'll head out on a walking tour of its 'Daily Life Trail'. This route focuses on the vibrant market area (souq) along Hammam Street, the town's main commercial artery for generations. Here, bustling shops sell a wide array of goods – fresh produce at the farmers' market, aromatic spices, traditional clothing, intricate gold and silver items in the jewellery market, local sweets, perfumes, nuts, and handmade crafts from local artisans. The trail allows us to see locals go about their day, perhaps gathering in Al Ain Plaza (the central square, historically a water source and traders' meeting point) to chat or play the traditional board game, Mangaleh. We'll visit key sites like the beautifully restored Historic Old Salt Museum housed in the magnificent Abu Jaber House, pass by the Great Mosque, climb the Al-Eskafyeh stairs historically lined with shoemakers still plying their trade, sample traditional Shrak bread hot from A'shour Bakery, observe local artisans at work, and truly absorb the unique culture, textures, and sounds of the Salti lifestyle, all while supporting the local community and promoting sustainable tourism through direct engagement with authentic, independent businesses and traditions.

We'll have lunch with a local family today, giving you your first taste of Jordanian cuisine (this is group size dependent, if the group is too large, we will head to a local restaurant). This meal further supports the local economy and offers genuine cultural exchange, reinforcing the sustainable approach.

After lunch, we make our way to the Baptism site at Bethany, which is an excavated site believed to be the place where John baptised Jesus Christ. Many churches, caves and pools dating back to Roman & Byzantine periods have been found here. We'll also visit key sites there: Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist's Church. We'll return to our hotel in Amman where we'll spend the night.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Explore Ancient Jerash and Amman, Street Food Experience & evening visit to the Wild Jordan Centre

We begin our day travelling north from Amman to the nearby city of Jerash, home to one of the largest and bestpreserved examples of Roman architecture outside of Italy. Often called the 'Jewel of the North', Jerash reveals an unbroken history of human settlement stretching back over 6,500 years. Hidden beneath sand for centuries, extensive excavations and restorations over the last 70 years have uncovered a remarkable example of the grand, formal Roman provincial urbanism typical throughout the Middle East.

Upon returning to Amman in the afternoon, we explore Jordan's capital, famously known as the 'white city' due to its abundance of white limestone buildings. Amman's history spans millennia, with archaeological work uncovering remains from the Neolithic period through the Hellenistic, late Roman, and Arab Islamic eras. Our tour includes the Citadel, the historic site of the Temple of Hercules, the Umayyad Palace, and the Byzantine Church. We will also visit the impressive 6,000-seat Roman Theatre, dating back to when the city was known as Philadelphia.

Following our exploration of the historical sites, we delve into the vibrant atmosphere of Downtown Amman with a street food tasting experience. You'll have the chance to sample local delicacies, which typically include sweet Kunefa, refreshing Sugar Cane Juice, and savoury Falafel, though specific offerings may vary based on availability during our visit.

Afterwards, there will be time to return to the hotel to refresh before our evening activity. To conclude our day, we'll enjoy an evening visit to the Wild Jordan Centre. This unique establishment is not only a fantastic spot to relax but also plays a crucial role in supporting Jordan's natural heritage and local communities. It serves as a hub for the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's ecotourism and handicraft projects, promoting sustainability by generating income for rural communities living in and around Jordan's nature reserves and aiding conservation efforts. For those who would prefer a more relaxed evening, you are welcome to remain at the hotel instead.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Kings Highway to Petra with stops in Madaba, Mount Nebo & Shobak Castle. Optional Petra by Night or Cookery Class

We leave Amman behind us today as we drive along the scenic King's Highway towards Petra. The drive itself is beautiful, crossing deep wadis, passing through olive groves, and navigating remote rural villages, offering you a unique insight into the daily lives of the local people.

Our first stop will be at Madaba, where we visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, famed for its remarkable 6th-century Byzantine mosaic map depicting the Holy Land and other biblical sites. Next, we'll venture up Mount Nebo, a significant viewpoint offering breathtaking panoramic views over the Jordan Valley towards the Holy Land.

We'll hit the road once more, this time crossing the stunning Wadi al-Mujib gorge. The route winds through olive groves before climbing over the deep canyon until we reach Shobak Castle. Perched dramatically on a mountainside, Shobak is another impressive example of the Crusader castles built during the early 12th century to guard the vital trade routes between Egypt and Damascus.

Upon arrival in Petra, we'll check into our hotel. This evening offers two optional activities for you to choose from. You could opt for a magical first glimpse of Petra with the atmospheric Petra by Candlelight experience, walking

through the Siq canyon to see the iconic Treasury illuminated solely by hundreds of candles. Alternatively, food enthusiasts might enjoy participating in a hands-on cooking class at the renowned Petra Kitchen, learning the secrets of preparing traditional Jordanian dishes. Please note that pre-booking is essential for the Petra Kitchen experience as it is very popular and spaces are limited.

OVERNIGHT: Petra hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Petra by night (local payment) Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class

Day 5: Full day exploration of Petra, camping underneath the stars in Wadi Rum

Today is all about exploring the Nabataean site of Petra. It was once the ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106 AD. For a long period, Petra was forgotten – except by the local Bedouins – before it was rediscovered in 1812 by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Petra is found at the edge of the Wadi Araba desert, where canyon walls and towering hills make it virtually inaccessible, except via a narrow cleft in the rock known as the Siq. There are very few free-standing buildings in Petra, as the Nabataeans chose to carve their dwellings into the multicoloured sandstone cliffs. Petra has become one of Jordan's main tourist attractions.

We have most of the day available today to explore this ancient city (a 2-3 hour guided tour, then free time to explore independently). We start by making our way through the Siq, which rises to 200 metres above us and narrows to just 2 metres wide in certain sections. Keep an eye out for the ancient Nabataean water channel still visible on one wall, and remnants of the terracotta pipes that brought water into the city are also present. We'll turn a corner and suddenly – one of the most familiar sights of Petra will be in front of you – The Khazneh (Treasury) comes into view. Our guide will explain how this, and the other buildings here, are mainly elaborate facades carved into the rock from the top down, and also discuss the spiritual significance of the building style.

From the Treasury, the valley opens out, and you'll see tombs carved into the rock on both sides. You'll get a glimpse of the ruined Roman amphitheatre and colonnaded streets. During your free time, you can walk up a steep and narrow winding gorge to the towering 'Monastery' – which is 50 metres high and 45 metres wide, providing breathtaking views of the Wadi Araba desert and the Jordan Valley. Another climb takes you to the High Place of Sacrifice and the Lion Fountain. All in all, this is a full and tiring, but hugely rewarding, day touring one of the world's most famous ancient sites.

Walking distances today are an absolute minimum of 3km through the Siq to the Treasury and back, plus distance to see a few tombs; 8km to take the trail on as far as the main basin; plus an additional few km to the Monastery and back (over 800 steps up and down). For those with less mobility or who are worried about the distance golf buggies are available for around 25 USD per person one way 40 USD per person round trip to take you on the 1.2km journey through the Siq to the Treasury and back again at an agreed time. Horse carriages are also available but we recommend against using these due to animal welfare reasons.

Later in the afternoon, we leave Petra and drive into the spectacular desert scenery of Wadi Rum. Whilst staying in Wadi Rum, several optional activities are available to enhance your desert experience, such as taking a traditional camel ride through the sand dunes, soaring above the landscape on a hot air balloon flight (typically at dawn, weather permitting), or enjoying an adventurous desert quad biking excursion. Upon arrival at our camp, friendly Bedouin hosts will greet us at our comfortable site, nestled beneath towering rocks and cliffs. We spend the evening relaxing at the camp and enjoying a delicious traditional Jordanian meal. As night falls and the stars emerge, there is also an option to join a captivating astronomy experience, taking advantage of Wadi Rum's exceptionally clear desert skies and unique vantage point to observe stars, constellations, and planets in incredible detail.

OVERNIGHT: Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: Camel Ride in Wadi Rum Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

Day 6: Wadi Rum Jeep Safari and overnight stay at the Dead Sea (optional excursion to Wadi Mujib)

We start the day early, exploring the beautiful desert and mountain scenery of Wadi Rum. Keep an eye out for the copper-coloured rocky 'jebels', which mesmerised T.E. Lawrence during his visits to the desert during the Arab Revolt and were later famed in the movie Lawrence of Arabia. We'll take a jeep safari through the stunning desert landscape, seeing more of the sheer cliffs and bizarre, weathered rock formations.

We say goodbye to Wadi Rum later in the morning and head north towards the Dead Sea, one of the planet's most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes. Not only is it the lowest point on Earth, at approximately 400 metres below sea level, but it's also filled with dramatic, natural wonders.

The Dead Sea is fed by numerous rivers, including the River Jordan. Once the waters reach the Dead Sea, they are land-locked with no outlet, so they evaporate under the intense desert sun. This process leaves behind a dense, rich cocktail of salts and minerals, renowned worldwide and supplying the cosmetics, agriculture, and medicine industries with some of their finest raw products.

The Dead Sea is flanked by mountains to the east and the rolling hills towards Jerusalem to the west, giving it an almost otherworldly beauty. Although sparsely populated and serenely quiet now, the area is believed by some to have been home to five Biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar (Bela).

Upon arrival at our hotel located on the shores of the Dead Sea, we will check in for our overnight stay. You'll have plenty of time this afternoon and the following morning to fully experience the buoyant waters, perhaps indulge in the therapeutic Dead Sea mud treatments, or enjoy other spa therapies available at the hotel. Normal swimming is near impossible; it's much easier (and certainly more photogenic!) simply to float effortlessly on the surface. Remember to avoid splashing water into your eyes, as the high salt concentration will cause stinging.

For the adventurous, and typically during the summer months (usually April to October, subject to local conditions and opening times), an optional excursion to the nearby Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve is available, offering a chance for an exciting sig trek through water-filled canyons.

OVERNIGHT: Dead Sea resort

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

Day 7: Exploring Eastern Jordan - Desert Castles, Azraq Wetlands & Shaumari Reserve

After breakfast, we depart Amman and journey eastwards to explore several of Jordan's remarkable Desert Castles, offering a fascinating glimpse into early Islamic art and architecture. Situated along ancient trade routes from the Umayyad era, these structures are a unique blend of forts, bathhouses, and palatial residences rather than traditional castles. We'll discover remnants of mosaics, frescoes, carvings, and illustrations influenced by Persian and Graeco-Roman traditions, providing insight into 8th-century life as we visit Qasr al-Kharrana, Qal'at al-Azraq, and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Qseirr Amra.

Our exploration also includes visits to two vital nature reserves managed by Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), where tourism plays a direct role in supporting conservation. The Azraq Wetland Reserve is an exceptionally precious oasis in the heart of Jordan's eastern desert. This unique ecosystem, featuring lush marshlands and shimmering pools, serves as a critical stopover for migratory birds on the African-Eurasian flyway. The RSCN carefully manages the reserve, balancing the protection of this delicate habitat and its water resources with sustainable visitor access. Your visit helps fund these conservation efforts, and

designated walkways or hides allow for observation while minimising disturbance to the wildlife.

Next, we visit the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. Established initially as a breeding centre for the globally threatened and locally extinct Arabian Oryx, the reserve is a testament to successful conservation funded partly by responsible tourism. Proceeds from visitors contribute directly to the ongoing breeding and reintroduction programmes for the Oryx, as well as other rare species such as Ostriches, Goitered Gazelles, and Persian Onagers. The reserve is also home to predators like red foxes, wolves, and caracals, and hosts important bird species. The visitor centre offers valuable education on the challenges and successes of wildlife conservation in Jordan. Depending on time and current arrangements, a guided safari may be available, offering a chance to view the animals in a controlled manner that supports the reserve's crucial work, before we make our way back to Amman for our final evening in Jordan.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Free time in Amman. Departure airport transfer

We have the day free to explore Amman before being transferred to the airport to board your departing flight back home.

You can also choose to try some optional day trips such as a visit to Aljoun Castle.

If you wish to extend the tour, we can arrange a transfer to Tel Aviv either by by flight or overland for people wanting to connect this tour with our Biblical Israel tour departure which starts on Sunday.

Note: options and extensions are subject to flight departure times and may require extra days adding to your tour.

OVERNIGHT: N/A MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Pella and Umm Qais Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Standard level Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Superior level

Included:

- Accommodation in 4-star hotels (upgrades available)
- 1 night in a comfortable Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- All transport and transfers in AC minibus/coach
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Professional local tour guide escorts groups of all sizes
- Immerse yourself in local life on the As-Salt Daily Life Trail
- 4x4 jeep safari in Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea Overnight Stay
- Amman Food Tasting Experience
- Entrance to Dead Sea beach with towel & showers
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (all breakfasts, one lunch & one dinner)

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (free visa included as part of your Jordan Pass)

- Entrance fees (included with your Jordan Pass, obtained in advance for JD78, approx. USD110)
- Travel insurance (mandatory, get quote here).
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Hotel gala dinner supplements if applicable (24 & 31 Dec)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Any other items not mentioned above

Notes

Similar tours:

The following tours also run alongside this trip, with slight adjustments to the itinerary:

- Best of Jordan removes the Desert Castles day trip from Day 7 to make an 8 day tour
- <u>Jordan Express</u> removes both the Desert Castles, and As Salt & Bethany days to make a budget-friendly 6-day tour of Jordan
- Jordan Encounters our signature 8-day small group tour of Jordan
- Jordan & Egypt Explorer removes the Desert Castles day trip, but then adds 9 days exploring Egypt at the end of the tour
- <u>Petra & Dubai</u> shortens the time in Jordan to 6 days, and then adds 4 nights in Dubai to the end of the trip, making 10 days in total

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Standard level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: This option is applicable to those who have booked the standard level of accommodation. If you have booked the superior accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: This option is applicable to those who have booked the standard level of accommodation. If you have booked the superior accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

Min numbers: 1

This option adds on a fun sunset or sunrise camel ride through the Wadi Rum desert.

Single room supplement - Standard Hotels (JOSHWJ)

Min numbers: 1

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation, with single bookers paired up with another traveller of the same sex in the group. If the final group make-up means that no room share is available, you do not need to pay this supplement. However, if you would like to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then please add this option to your booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Superior level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: This option is applicable to those who have booked the superior level of accommodation. If you have booked the standard accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Superior level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: This option is applicable to those who have booked the superior level of accommodation. If you have booked the standard accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Single room supplement - Superior Hotels (JOSHWJ)

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

Note: This option is applicable to those selecting the superior level of accommodation. If you have chosen our standard level accommodation, please select the single supplement applicable to this level of accommodation. **Note:** Single room supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

Min numbers: 1

Escape the hustle and bustle of Amman for a real adventure, exploring the canyons of Wadi Mujib, following the famous Sig Trail.

Leaving Amman, we'll drive around 90 minutes to the shores of the Dead Sea where our journey along the Siq Trail begins from the Wadi Mujib visitors centre. Descending down into the gorge we enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve where between months of April and October it's possible to take an exciting hike through the shallow waters that fill the gorge. Along the way you'll climb up small waterfalls where steps have being installed to make it easier, until eventually you'll reach the end of the gorge where you can relax beneath a large waterfall. The entire hike generally takes 2 to 3 hours roundtrip.

We highly recommend bringing along a dry-bag (so your camera or mobile phone don't get wet) and water shoes. It is possible to hire a dry bag at the visitors centre for around US\$7.00 and purchase water shoes for US\$7.00).

Note: On most tours it's necessary to add an extra night pre or post-tour to have enough time to take this tour. If you have a late departure on your final day however, it may be possible to visit Wadi Mujib on your departure day.

Petra by night (local payment)

Min numbers: 1

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

Pricing includes your entrance ticket and any transfers required to and from your hotel. Please bring a flashlight/torch with you for this trip as the path through the Siq is rough underfoot in places and while there are candles all the way, a torch provides extra assurance against mis-stepping.

Please Note: This is a local payment option, payment will be collected by your tour guide whilst in Jordan.

Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Petra experience with a delightful evening immersed in Jordanian culture and cuisine at the renowned Petra Kitchen. This popular optional activity offers a fantastic opportunity to participate in a hands-on cookery class, working alongside local chefs and women to prepare a range of traditional Jordanian dishes. You'll learn about local ingredients, master authentic techniques, and discover the secrets behind delicious regional specialities, typically culminating in enjoying the multi-course feast you've helped create together. It's a fun, interactive, and social way to spend an evening after exploring the wonders of Petra.

Please note that spaces for the Petra Kitchen Cookery Class are limited and it is exceptionally popular. Therefore, pre-booking is essential to guarantee your participation, and we strongly recommend securing your spot well in advance to avoid disappointment due to high demand.

Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience

Min numbers: 1

Venture into the heart of Wadi Rum's captivating desert landscape after nightfall and witness a celestial display like no other. Far from city lights, the vast, clear skies above this ancient valley reveal a breathtaking panorama of stars.

Join our optional astronomy tour and embark on a journey through the cosmos. Our expert guides will illuminate the constellations, planets, and deep-sky objects visible to the naked eye, sharing fascinating insights into their mythology and scientific significance.

Experience the profound silence and tranquillity of the desert night as you gaze upon the Milky Way's shimmering expanse. With the aid of powerful telescopes, you'll delve deeper into the universe, observing distant galaxies and nebulae with remarkable clarity. This is an unforgettable opportunity to connect with the cosmos and appreciate the sheer scale and beauty of the night sky in one of the world's most spectacular natural settings.

Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Wadi Rum visit with an optional hot air balloon flight. Experience a sunrise view of the 'Valley of the Moon' from above. Observe the desert landscape as the sun rises, providing unique photographic opportunities. Flights are early morning, conducted by professional pilots, and subject to weather conditions. Bookings are confirmed the evening before. A full refund is provided if the flight is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

Min numbers: 1

Unleash your adventurous spirit and explore the magnificent desert landscapes of Wadi Rum on an exhilarating quad biking excursion. This optional activity puts you in control of your own All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), allowing you to navigate the sandy plains and weave between the iconic towering rock formations under the guidance of local experts. 1 Feel the thrill as you power through the stunning scenery of the 'Valley of the Moon', accessing unique viewpoints and experiencing the vastness of the desert in a truly dynamic way. It's a perfect add-on for those seeking an adrenaline rush and a different perspective on Wadi Rum's breathtaking beauty.

Amman evening food tasting tour

Min numbers: 1

This evening tour of Amman provides a great taste of traditional Jordanian food. We take a walk down Rainbow Street and through Downtown Amman, checking out the various local restaurants and street food available. Your guide will give you plenty of explanations of what is on offer, and what are the local favourites.

During the tour we'll try several different dishes, starting with a snack of either Manakish (with its various toppings of egg, white cheese or za'atar) or a classic falafel sandwich. Then in Downtown Amman we'll try a main meal, perhaps the Jordanian national dish of Mansaf, slow cooked lamb with rice and yoghurt sauce. Finally we'll try one of the cities famous desserts like Knafeh from one the popular local sweet shops. Three dishes are included in the price of the tour, plus transfers to and from your hotel and your guide, but you'll need to pay for your own drinks.

Meat dishes will be substitued with vegetarian options on request.

Note. This option is available on any evening while you are in Amman. The tour can also be booked and paid for locally. If you are a solo traveller we recommend waiting until you are in Amman to book this, as the pricing is based on a minimum of two travellers. If you are two or more and know you want to do it, we recommend booking in advance so that we can have the guide and transport arrangements planned for you well in advance.

1. Accommodation

We use good quality mid-range hotels on this tour. Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will stay in a private double room.

An upgrade is also available to local 5-star hotels in Amman and Petra if you would like a more luxurious stay - you will find both our standard and superior accommodation options available to book from the dates and prices tab. These can be considered basic international 5-star level in Amman, and decent 4-star level in Petra. Typical hotels used are the Landmark or Le Grand in Amman which are modern style hotels, and the Old Village Resort or Hyatt Zaman in Petra which are more traditional characterful properties.

In Wadi Rum we use a comfortable Bedouin camp located on the desert sands, against the cliffs. Accommodation is in permanent traditional goat hair tents with their own bathroom, proper beds and all bedding provided You can also bring a sleeping bag if you wish, and find a sheltered spot on the rocks on the edge of the camp and sleep under the stars.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

2. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As one of our Small-Group tours, maximum group sizes are restricted to 18 people, while the tour is guaranteed to depart with a minimum of just 2.

A professional licensed guide accompanies all groups of 5 or more throughout the whole tour. For groups of 2-4, one of our experienced English speaking drivers will escort the group with specialist local site guides used for the tours in As-Salt, Bethany, Jerash, Amman (Citadel), and Petra.

Travellers on our Jordan Express tour will join this trip on Day 2.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local Jordanian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing as well as supporting the local population and economy.

3. Dates & Prices

We run regular departures on this tour starting on Sundays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 participants. Departure dates & prices are given on our website (please check the website for up-to-date prices & special offers). Note: On some dates the tour will start on a Saturday instead of the usual Sunday. On these dates the Desert Castles day trip will move from the end of the tour to the start of the trip. Everything else remains the same.

Printed on: Saturday 4th of October 2025

Note: Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.