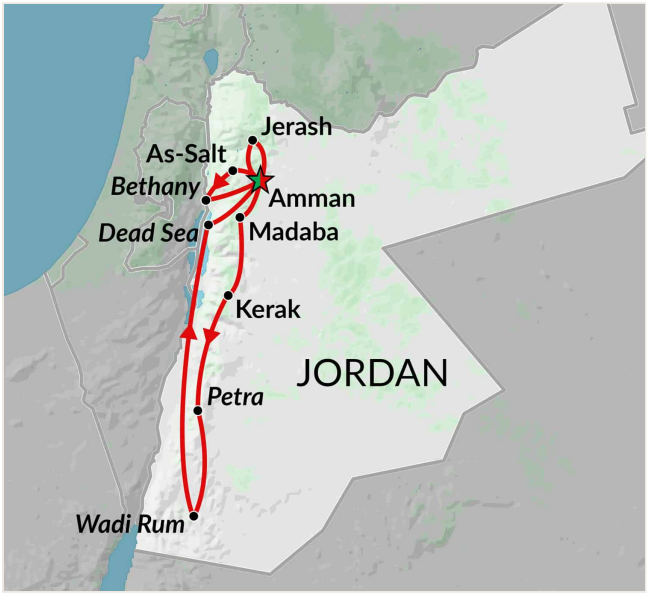
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Best of 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 |
| DURATION | 7 days |
| STARTS | Amman, Jordan |
| ENDS | Amman, Jordan |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 6, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 1 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **7 Days**




**ROUTE:** **Amman** (Start) → **Wadi Musa** → **Wadi Rum** → **Amman** (End)

**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

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Welcome to Jordan! Hotel transfers included

Land in Amman and complete the meet-and-greet before travelling directly to your hotel. No organised sightseeing is included during the remainder of the day, so the available time can be used for rest or independent exploration around the surrounding area. The focus remains on arrival, transfer and settling into the capital rather than adding unsupported attractions or activities before the scheduled programme starts.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive at Amman International Airport**
  Arrive at Amman International Airport where our team will meet and greet you before you begin your Jordan adventure.

- **Transfer from Amman Airport to Hotel**
  Transfer from Amman International Airport to your hotel in the city for check-in and the start of your Jordan journey.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Amman hotel | None | Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level, Single room supplement - Standard Hotels (JOSHBJ), Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Superior level, Single room supplement - Superior Hotels (SSJOBJ) |

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

Begin with the drive from Amman to As-Salt and follow the Daily Life Trail through the souq, Hammam Street, Al Ain Plaza, the Historic Old Salt Museum, Great Mosque area and Al-Eskafyeh stairs. A local-family lunch is planned where group size allows, with a restaurant used for larger groups. Continue after lunch to the Baptism Site at Bethany for Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist’s Church, then return to the Amman hotel.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to As-Salt**
  Scenic drive from Amman to the historic hilltop town of As-Salt.
- **Explore As-Salt – Daily Life Trail**
  Explore the charming hilltop town of As-Salt, a UNESCO World Heritage site recognised for its tolerance and hospitality and once a key trading link between the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Desert. Stroll its narrow lanes on the “Daily Life Trail” and learn about its unique mix of Islamic and Christian heritage.
- **Drive from As-Salt to Bethany**
  Continue by road from As-Salt to the Baptism Site at Bethany near the Jordan River. Pass rural landscapes and farms on the way.
- **Explore Baptism Site Bethany**
  Visit the Baptism Site at Bethany, believed to be the place where John the Baptist baptised Jesus. Explore the archaeological remains of ancient churches, baptism pools, and sacred sites including Tell Mar Elias and John the Baptist's Church, set along the peaceful banks of the Jordan River.
- **Drive from Bethany to Amman**
  Return from the Jordan River area to your hotel in Amman. Relax after a full day of cultural and religious history.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Amman hotel | Breakfast,Lunch |

DAY 3

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

Travel from Amman to Jerash and spend time among its extensive Roman ruins before returning to the capital for further sightseeing. Visits to the Citadel and Roman Theatre reveal more of Amman’s ancient layers, while a street-food activity introduces contemporary local tastes. The day concludes at the Wild Jordan Centre, adding modern cultural context and city views after the historic monuments.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to Jerash**
  Drive north from Amman to reach the ancient Roman city of Jerash, one of Jordan's most impressive archaeological sites. The journey reveals a mix of rolling hills and traditional villages along the route.
- **Explore Jerash**
  Explore Jerash, one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman cities outside Europe. Walk through the oval Forum, visit the Nymphaeum, and admire the grand Temple of Artemis overlooking the ancient city.
- **Drive from Jerash to Amman**
  Travel south from Jerash back to Amman, enjoying views of Jordan's hill country along the way.
- **Explore Amman Citadel**
  Visit the ancient Amman Citadel, home to the ruins of the Temple of Hercules, the Umayyad Palace, and a Byzantine church. Enjoy panoramic views across downtown Amman and gain insight into the city's multi-layered history.
- **Explore Roman Theatre in Amman**
  Discover the impressive Roman Theatre of Amman, a 6,000-seat amphitheatre dating back to the 2nd century AD. Still used for cultural events today, it stands as a testament to the city's ancient architectural heritage.
- **Amman Street Food Experience**
  Enjoy a street food tasting tour in Downtown Amman, sampling local favourites such as falafel, sweet kunafa, and refreshing sugar cane juice. Dishes vary by day but always showcase authentic Jordanian flavours.
- **Explore Wild Jordan Centre**
  Visit the Wild Jordan Centre, an eco-friendly space supporting nature conservation and local communities. Relax with views over the city and learn how the centre promotes sustainable tourism and rural livelihoods.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Amman hotel | Breakfast |

DAY 4

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

Travel from Amman through Madaba, Mount Nebo and Shobak on the way to Petra. The church in Madaba introduces the famous Mosaic Map, Mount Nebo provides biblical context and wide views, and Shobak Castle adds

an important medieval landmark. After these visits, continue south to Petra and spend the remaining time at leisure, allowing the day to finish without further organised sightseeing after the long King’s Highway drive.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Amman to Petra via King's Highway**
  Travel south from Amman along the historic King's Highway, passing olive groves, deep wadis, and rural villages as you make your way toward Petra. This scenic route offers a memorable glimpse into traditional Jordanian life.
- **Explore Madaba**
  Discover the ancient city of Madaba, renowned for its stunning Byzantine mosaics. Visit St. George's Church to see the famous Madaba Map, the oldest surviving cartographic depiction of the Holy Land.
- **Explore St George's Greek Orthodox Church**
  Visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St George in Madaba, home to the famous 6th-century mosaic map of the Holy Land. This remarkable artwork is one of Jordan's most significant Byzantine treasures.
- **Drive from Madaba to Mount Nebo**
  Continue from Madaba to Mount Nebo along a scenic hillside road. This short ascent brings you to one of Jordan's most significant biblical viewpoints.
- **Explore Mount Nebo**
  Visit Mount Nebo, where tradition says Moses viewed the Promised Land. Enjoy sweeping vistas toward the Jordan Valley and Jericho, and see the site's beautifully restored mosaics and memorial church.
- **Explore Shobak Castle**
  Visit Shobak Castle, a dramatic 12th-century Crusader fortress perched high on a mountainside. Explore its towers, gateways, and hidden passages while enjoying panoramic views over the surrounding valleys.
- **Free Time in Petra**
  Relax for the evening in Petra with time to unwind, explore shops, or enjoy local cafés. Optional experiences such as Petra by Night are available for those seeking a magical introduction to the site.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Petra hotel | Breakfast | Petra by night (local payment), Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class |

## DAY 5 Full day exploration of Petra, camping underneath the stars in Wadi Rum

Spend a full period exploring Petra, beginning with the Siq and Treasury before continuing to the Royal Tombs, Amphitheatre and Colonnaded Street. The Monastery and High Place of Sacrifice extend the visit into higher parts of the site before free time. Afterwards, travel to Wadi Rum and settle into the desert surroundings, completing a day that moves from intensive archaeological sightseeing to a quieter period in the wilderness.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Guided Walk Through the Siq**
  Walk through Petra's dramatic Siq, a narrow sandstone canyon leading into the ancient Nabataean capital. See

the historic water channels carved into the canyon walls and the terracotta pipes that once carried water. A spectacular approach to Petra's iconic monuments.

- **Explore the Treasury (Al in Khazneh)**
  Visit Petra's world-famous Treasury, a stunning façade carved into rose-red sandstone cliffs. Learn about its Nabataean design, cultural significance, and the legends surrounding its purpose. A highlight of any tour through Petra.
- **Visit Petra Main Sites (Royal Tombs, Amphitheatre and Colonnaded Street)**
  Explore the core of Petra, including the Royal Tombs, the Roman amphitheatre, and the ancient colonnaded street. These structures showcase the city's blend of Nabataean craftsmanship and Roman architectural influence. A central part of the guided visit.
- **Explore the Monastery (Ad in Deir)**
  Climb the famous stone staircase to reach the Monastery, one of Petra's most impressive monuments. Its enormous façade offers panoramic views across Wadi Araba and the surrounding desert. A rewarding trek for adventurous visitors.
- **Explore the High Place of Sacrifice**
  Hike up to the High Place of Sacrifice, an ancient Nabataean ceremonial site with sweeping valley views. This elevated platform reveals Petra's historical and spiritual landscape. A challenging but unforgettable section of your Petra exploration.
- **Drive from Petra to Wadi Rum**
  Travel south from Petra into the spectacular landscapes of Wadi Rum. The route passes rugged sandstone mountains and vast stretches of open desert.
- **Free Time in Wadi Rum**
  Enjoy free time at your Wadi Rum desert camp. Relax, unwind, and take in the unique desert scenery. A peaceful evening surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum | Breakfast,Dinner | 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)

Begin in Wadi Rum with a jeep journey through red-sand valleys, towering cliffs and sculpted rock formations before leaving the desert and travelling north towards the Dead Sea. On arrival at the waterfront resort, enjoy free time to float in the mineral-rich water or relax beside the shore. The day moves from active desert exploration to a slower afternoon at one of Jordan’s most distinctive natural landscapes.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Jeep Safari and Bedouin Experience – Wadi Rum**
  Experience an adventurous jeep safari through the golden sands and towering cliffs of Wadi Rum. Join local Bedouins for an authentic cultural encounter, walking with shepherds, learning traditional crafts, and sharing a freshly prepared meal in their desert camp.
- **Drive from Wadi Rum to Dead Sea**
  Travel north from Wadi Rum to the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. The drive passes striking desert scenery and mountain views before reaching your resort for a relaxing evening by the water.
- **Dead Sea swim and float**
  Relax and float effortlessly in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. After your day's adventure, unwind at your resort, enjoy the therapeutic mud, and capture the iconic newspaper photo as you drift on the surface.
- **Free Time in Dead Sea**
  Enjoy free time at your Dead Sea resort, perfect for unwinding after a day of travel. Relax by the shore, enjoy the hotel's facilities, or explore the tranquil surroundings at your own pace.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
|---|---|---|
| Dead Sea resort | Breakfast | Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail |

## DAY 7 Free time at the Dead Sea. Airport transfer included

Spend your final hours at the Dead Sea at leisure, with time to relax by the shoreline and enjoy the dramatic scenery surrounding one of the lowest places on Earth. Take in the distinctive mineral-rich waters and peaceful desert setting before leaving the Dead Sea and travelling to the airport for your onward departure.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Dead Sea**
  Enjoy free time at your Dead Sea resort, perfect for unwinding after a day of travel. Relax by the shore, enjoy the hotel's facilities, or explore the tranquil surroundings at your own pace.
- **Drive from Dead Sea to Airport**
  Transfer from your Dead Sea hotel to Queen Alia International Airport for departure. Conclude your Best of Jordan tour and say farewell to Jordan.
- **Departure from Amman Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Amman Airport, where you complete departure formalities and continue with your onward flight.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
|---|---|---|
| N/A | Breakfast | 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 3 & 4-star hotels (upgrades are 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
- Visit the Wild Jordan Centre supporting sustainability
- 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 (compulsory, get a 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

# Tour 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 - 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.

## Desert Castles and Nature Reserves tour

*Min numbers: 1*

After breakfast we leave Amman and head east to visit several of Jordan's Desert Castles - a fantastic reminder of its early Islamic art and architecture. These 'castles' were located on the old trade routes created during the Umayyad era and are more a combination of forts, bath houses and palaces than true castles. You can still see some mosaics, frescoes, carvings and illustrations on show, moulded by Persian and Graeco-Roman traditions, giving an insight into life during the 8th century. We'll explore the desert castles of Qasr al-Kharrana, Qal'at al-Azraq and Qseirr Amra and also visit two important nature reserves run by the Jordanian Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). The Aqraq Wetland Reserve is a uniquely precious oasis located in the heart of Jordan’s eastern desert, between a limestone desert in the west and a basalt desert in the east. The reserve features lush marshland, and glittering pools and streams that are a haven for migratory birds on the African-Eurasian flyway. The Shaumari Wildlife Reserve was initially created as a breeding and reintroduction centre for globally threatened and locally extinct wildlife, particularly the Arabian Oryx. These efforts continue and now a wide variety of rare animals make their home in the reserve, including Ostriches Struthio camelus, Goitered Gazelles, and Persian Onagers. Also found in the area are red foxes, wolves, striped hyenas, Caracals and wild cats, while bird sightings can include Imperial Eagles, Pallid Harriers and Egyptian vultures. There is a good visitor centre on site and guided safaris may be available into the reserve before we return to Amman depending on the time we have available and the reserve's current arrangements. For your last evening, why not head into Downtown Amman for a final taste of Jordanian food, perhaps giving Jordan's national dish of Mansaf a go, or the classic falafel and hummus, with a taste of Knafeh, a popular sweet desert to finish.

This optional tour runs on the last day of the main tour and will normally require an extra night in the hotel in Amman is added tour, unless you have a late evening/night departure. A supplement will apply if there is only one person on the tour.

## 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.

## 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 Siq 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.

## Extra day at Dead Sea - 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 standard extra night option.
**Note**: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

**Extra day at Dead Sea - 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.

# Important Notes

## 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.

## 4 Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. The small distances involved in Jordan mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. These will be minivans, minibuses or coaches, depending on the number of travellers in the group.

The jeeps used in Wadi Rum are provided by the local Bedouins we work with, and while suitable for your desert safari, they may fall below the normal safety and quality standards for vehicles we use during the rest of our tours.

## 5 Transfers

Your airport transfers are included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days. We will provide detailed instructions of where to meet us in the airport, along with international and local emergency contact numbers, when we send you your final tour confirmation voucher about 2 weeks before departure.

On some of our group tours we do offer an optional upgrade to a higher level of hotels. If some people in the group take this upgrade, this will mean that there may be two pick-ups and drop-offs each day. We do endeavour to ensure that all hotels used are close to each other and to streamline and time arrangements to limit any extra driving time as much as possible.

## 6 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don’t include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we’ll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour.

Nearly all our Jordan tours start and finish at Amman airport (AMM). Private and tailor-made tours may also start or finish in Aqaba (AQJ).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets

are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

**Flight CO2 Emissions:**

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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## 7 Tipping

Tipping for services provided is part of the local culture in Jordan, is often expected, and will be very gratefully received. While the amount you tip is subject to your satisfaction with the services provided and your personal budget, we are often asked for help and guidelines and can therefore suggest that you allow approx.:

Tour guides: US$8-10 per person per day

Drivers: US$3-5 per person per day

Restaurants: 10% or leave the change

Petra horse boys: US$2-5 (we recommend against riding the horses for animal welfare and safety concerns, but the boys may still expect a tip)

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## 8 What to take

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Jordan. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips - you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** The climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. At night, especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required. Modesty rates highly in Jordan, especially for women, so to respect the local culture and people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we

suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). When visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

**Other items:** If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp then bedding is provided but we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for comfort all year round (even with the best efforts, sand does find its way pretty much everywhere). In the winter months, or if you think you would like to sleep under the stars instead of in your tent, then we recommend you bring a sleeping bag with you as it can get very cold at night. We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

**Jordan Active Tours:** If you are travelling on one of our Jordanian Hiking tour, such as our Petra & Bedouin Trail then we recommend the following items are included on your packing list specifically:

- Comfortable **hiking shoes** (broken in)
- Lightweight **hiking clothes** (breathable, moisture-wicking)
- **Warm layers** for chilly evenings in the desert
- **Inflatable Pillow** for use whilst camping
- **Refillable water bottle** (hydration is key! and we'll provide water from a refillable water station)
- **Sun protection** (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Small **backpack** for essentials
- **Headlamp/flashlight** for nighttime
- Personal **medication and first aid items**

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## 9 Entrance fees & Jordan Pass

The price of the majority of our Jordan tours does not include entrance fees to the sites visited on the tour (this excludes our Petra and Bedouin Trail Tour where entrance fees are included in the tour price and the Jordan Pass is not recommended):

We strongly recommend that you purchase a **Jordan Pass** prior to your travel to Jordan. This is a special package that has been designed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for tourists visiting Jordan. As well as including a discounted package of entrance fees covering all the sites in Jordan that you will visit on this tour (plus many others), the Jordan Pass also provides free downloadable digital brochures on each attraction, plus a free tourist visa for entering the country (40JD if obtained on arrival in Jordan). It also allows us to speed up our entry to each site as if everyone has the Jordan Pass we won't need to queue for tickets.

A handful of sites that we visit on our tours are not covered by the Jordan Pass (eg. Mt. Nebo, St. George's Church at Madaba, and the Shawmuri & Azraq Reserves), so to keep things simple for you while you are in Jordan, where these are visited in our itineraries, the entry fees are included in your tour price. If you visit any other sites not covered by the Jordan Pass during your free time or on additional tours you arrange while in Jordan, you will need to pay the entrance fee at the site.

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** which is suitable for all our tours which visit Petra on one day is JD70 (approx. US$99). You should also check if your tour visits the Baptism Site at Bethany and if it does, add on the supplement for this site (an extra JD8, discounted from the JD12 payable at the site). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered

correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. Obtain your Jordan Pass here

If you do not obtain the Jordan Pass before arriving in Jordan, you will need to pay the entry fees when you arrive at each site and also pay JD40 for your Jordan visa when you enter the country (or arrange your visa in advance).

More information about the Jordan Pass.

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## 10 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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## 11 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

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## 12 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.

- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

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## 13 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

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## 14 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

**Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

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## 15 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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## 16 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

**How Water-to-Go Technology works:**

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

**The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:**

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

**Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide**

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

**Use Water-to-Go products and you’ll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!**

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

## 17 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

## 18 Passports and Visas - Jordan

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the **Jordan Pass**. This provides adults of most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

**Please note that whilst the Jordan Pass is recommended for the vast majority of our Jordan Tours where entrance fees are not included, this is not recommended for our Petra & the Bedouin Trail tour as entrance fees to Petra and Wadi Rum are already included in the cost of this tour.**

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Families with children under 12 are recommended not to purchase the Jordan Pass for the children as entrance fees are not charged in Jordan for children under 12. Instead, the adults should purchase a Jordan Pass and we will arrange a free visa for the children which you will receive when we meet you on arrival into Amman airport.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

## 19 Money - Jordan

The local currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You do not need to arrange to bring any Jordanian Dinar with you to Jordan as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Jordan you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Jordanian Dinar, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

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## 20 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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## 21 Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon is GMT plus 2 hours and in UAE GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

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## 22 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination.  You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.
In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Dipheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

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