ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Jordan & Egypt Explorer

COUNTRY(IES)	Egypt , Jordan
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C car/minibus, Bedouin jeep & felucca sailboat, overnight train
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 18
DURATION	14 days
STARTS	Amman, Jordan
ENDS	Cairo, Egypt
MEALS	Breakfasts - 12, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 2

TOUR ROUTE MAP **14 Days**



ROUTE: **Amman** (Start) → **As Salt** → **Jerash** → **Madaba** → **Wadi Musa** → **Wadi Rum** → **Cairo** → **Amman** → **Cairo** → **Aswan** → **Luxor** → **Cairo** (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, the Pyramids & Sphinx, Huge Karnak Temple complex, Island Philae Temple, The Valley of the Kings, Felucca cruise on the Nile

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

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

Spend the morning in As-Salt following the Daily Life Trail through the souq, Hammam Street, Al Ain Plaza, Abu Jaber House museum area and Al-Eskafyeh stairs. Lunch is with a local family where group size permits, with larger groups using a local restaurant. Later, visit Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan and its Roman and Byzantine religious remains before the drive back to Amman. No further sightseeing is added.

ACTIVITIES

- **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.
- **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.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Amman hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

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

Begin with the drive to Jerash and spend time within the extensive Roman archaeological site before travelling back to Amman. The afternoon includes the Citadel, Roman Theatre and a street-food experience in the downtown area. Later, visit the Wild Jordan Centre and take in the city setting. The activities remain focused on the named cultural, historical and food-based experiences without adding further attractions.

ACTIVITIES

- **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.
- **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

Journey along the storied King’s Highway with stops at the mosaic-filled St George’s Church in Madaba and the panoramic summit of Mount Nebo, where Moses once gazed across the Promised Land. Continue south through dramatic canyons to explore Shobak Castle, a rugged 12th-century Crusader fortress perched high above the valley. Your day ends in Petra, ready for tomorrow’s discoveries.

ACTIVITIES

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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 the day exploring Petra’s principal archaeological area, beginning with the Siq and Treasury before continuing to the Royal Tombs, amphitheatre and Colonnaded Street. Later, travel south to Wadi Rum and reach the desert camp. The evening is left relaxed, allowing time to settle into the surroundings after the full archaeological visit and transition from Petra’s carved monuments to the open sandstone landscapes of Wadi Rum.

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.
- **Explore the Royal Tombs**
  Explore the monumental Royal Tombs carved high into Petra's sandstone cliffs. Their grand façades reveal impressive craftsmanship and showcase the wealth and influence of the Nabataeans. This area forms one of the key sections of Petra's main trail.
- **Walk Along the Colonnaded Street**
  Walk along Petra's ancient colonnaded street, once the commercial heart of the city. The remains of columns, shops, and public buildings line this broad avenue. A major axis of the archaeological site.
- **Explore the Roman Amphitheatre in Jordan**
  Visit Petra's ancient Roman amphitheatre, carved largely into the rock and later expanded by the Romans. With space for thousands of spectators, it highlights the blend of Nabataean and Roman design. The structure sits prominently within the heart of the archaeological site.
- **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	Post-tour Wadi Rum camp extension

DAY 7 Amman to Cairo. Hotel transfer included

Arrive in Cairo and meet the local team at the airport, where assistance is provided with visas and luggage before the transfer to your city hotel. Once settled, the rest of the day is free to rest after travelling or explore nearby streets and cafés independently. The relaxed arrival gives you time to adjust to the capital before the organised sightseeing begins, while keeping the schedule free of fixed visits.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Cairo International Airport**
  Arrival at Cairo International Airport with meet & assist for visa and luggage handling.
- **Transfer from Cairo Airport to City Hotel**
  Enjoy a comfortable transfer from Cairo International Airport to your city hotel. Sit back and take in your first glimpses of Egypt's bustling capital as you travel through its lively streets.
- **Free Time at Cairo**
  Enjoy some leisure time in Cairo to relax, explore local cafés, or take in the city's vibrant streets before continuing your journey.

From Amman’s Departure Gates to Cairo’s Timeless Skyline

Leave Amman and transfer to the airport for the flight to Cairo, marking the transition from Jordan to Egypt. After the road journey to the terminal, board the international flight and travel across the region towards the Egyptian capital. The day is focused entirely on departure and air travel, providing the practical connection between two stages of the wider journey without additional sightseeing.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to Airport**
  Transfer from Amman to Queen Alia International Airport for your outbound flight. This short drive takes you from the city to Jordan's main international terminal. Assistance is provided before boarding your flight.
- **Travel from Flight Amman to Cairo**
  Fly from Amman to Cairo on a direct international service. This flight links Jordan with Egypt's energetic capital. All airport transfers on both ends are included.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Cairo 4-star hotel	Breakfast	Nile dinner cruise in Cairo

DAY 8 Cairo, Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza. Included Koshary Lunch. Overnight train to Aswan

Begin exploring Egypt at the three great pyramids of Giza on the outskirts of Cairo. Probably the most recognisable ancient buildings in the world, they were built by the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure around 2500 BC, and an Egyptologist guide introduces how and why pyramids were built and how they fit into the wider pharaonic story; there is the chance to climb down inside one of them if you wish, and if you are not claustrophobic. The majestic Sphinx nestles nearby, uncovered completely only in the 1920s. An included Koshary lunch follows, a beloved Egyptian staple of fluffy rice and lentils topped with macaroni and chickpeas, brought together with a tangy tomato sauce and a sprinkle of crispy fried onions. After lunch there is free time to visit the Egyptian Museum of antiquities, home to the treasures of ancient Egypt. This evening, board the overnight VIP seater train from Cairo to Aswan; for anyone preferring more comfort there is the option of upgrading to the sleeper train, with a private cabin on board and airline-style meals included.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Great Sphinx of Giza**
  Marvel at the enigmatic Great Sphinx, guarding the plateau with its lion's body and human face. This ancient monument is one of Egypt's most enduring symbols, shrouded in mystery and legend.
- **Explore the Great Pyramids of Giza**
  Stand in awe before the Great Pyramids of Giza, the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World. Learn about its construction and the pharaohs who built these monumental tombs that have stood for over 4,000 years.
- **Enjoy a Lunch: Traditional Koshary Experience**
  Stop for a delicious serving of Egypt's national dish, Koshary. This hearty blend of lentils, rice, pasta, chickpeas and tangy tomato sauce, topped with crispy fried onions, offers an authentic taste of local life.
- **Explore the Egyptian Museum**
  Explore the world-renowned Egyptian Museum, home to one of the greatest collections of ancient artefacts including the treasures of Tutankhamun. Your early morning visit offers a fascinating glimpse into Egypt's royal past.
- **Transfer to Station and Overnight Train Cairo → Aswan**
  Board the overnight seater train to Aswan from Ramses Station in Cairo. Relax in your private cabin and enjoy the rhythmic journey along the Nile Valley as Egypt's landscapes unfold by night.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Overnight seater train	Breakfast	Two way sleeper train upgrade

DAY 9 Arrive in Aswan. Philae Temple & Nubian village

Reach Aswan and visit Philae Temple before continuing to the Nubian village experience. The temple introduces the ancient religious heritage of the region, while the village visit shifts the focus to living Nubian culture along the Nile. Together, the two visits provide contrasting perspectives on southern Egypt without adding activities beyond the temple and community experience.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival in Aswan**
  Arrive in the serene riverside city of Aswan, where the Nile flows wide and calm. This laid-back southern gateway to ancient Nubia welcomes you with warm sunshine, friendly locals, and stunning river views.
- **Explore Philae Temple**
  Sail across the Nile to the magnificent Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. This beautiful island sanctuary is one of Egypt's most atmospheric sites, with intricate carvings and tranquil surroundings that tell stories of ancient devotion.
- **Enjoy a Nubian Village Experience**
  Sail along the Nile on a relaxing trip to a traditional Nubian village where you'll spend the night at a Nubian style guesthouse. Discover vibrant mud-brick homes painted in bold colours, meet friendly locals, and experience authentic Nubian hospitality that reflects centuries of culture along the river.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Aswan - Nubian Village hotel	Breakfast

DAY 10

Abu Simbel option. Nile Felucca Cruise

Sail from Aswan on a traditional felucca and spend the night aboard as the journey continues along the Nile. Palm-lined banks, desert landscapes and riverside settlements provide the scenery during the day, while the slower pace offers a different perspective on Upper Egypt. The overnight stay keeps the experience centred on the river itself before travelling onwards the following day.

ACTIVITIES

- **Boarding Felucca: Aswan to Downstream**
  Board a traditional felucca and drift downstream along the Nile, taking in serene views of palm-lined banks and timeless Nubian landscapes. This slow, graceful sail captures the essence of the Egyptian River experience.
- **Overnight Sail on Felucca**
  Spend a peaceful night aboard a traditional felucca, drifting down the Nile beneath a canopy of stars. This authentic sailing experience offers a rare glimpse of Egypt's timeless river life.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
On board felucca	Breakfast,Dinner	Abu Simbel overland, Felucca to Hotel upgrade

DAY 11

To Luxor via Edfu. Optional Luxor temple at night

Leave the felucca and visit the Temple of Horus at Edfu before travelling north to Luxor. The temple visit provides the main archaeological experience, followed by the overland transfer towards the former city of Thebes. Reaching Luxor marks the shift from river travel into the next major sightseeing region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Morning Felucca Sailing**
  Wake to the gentle breeze of the Nile and enjoy a tranquil morning sail on a traditional felucca. Watch the desert hills and palm-lined banks drift by as life on the river slowly awakens.
- **Explore Temple of Edfu**
  Explore the magnificent Temple of Horus in Edfu, one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient temples. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, its towering columns and hieroglyphs offer a vivid glimpse into Ptolemaic-era craftsmanship.
- **Drive from Edfu to Luxor**
  Travel along the scenic Nile Valley as you journey from Edfu to Luxor. Enjoy views of fertile farmlands, small

riverside villages, and glimpses of ancient temples that line this historic route.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Luxor 4-star hotel	Breakfast	Hot air balloon in Luxor, Nile cruise upgrade

DAY 12

Luxor, West Bank tour. Optional Karnak temple tour. Train to Cairo

Explore the extraordinary monuments of Luxor’s West Bank, home to some of ancient Egypt’s most iconic archaeological wonders. Begin at the towering Colossi of Memnon before travelling deeper into the Theban necropolis to visit the elegant mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Continue to the Valley of the Kings to step inside the ornate tombs of Egypt’s pharaohs, then discover the daily lives of their artisans in the remarkably preserved village of Deir el-Medina. After a morning immersed in pharaonic history, return to Luxor for a relaxed afternoon before boarding the overnight train to Cairo, concluding your day with a classic Egyptian travel experience.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Colossi of Memnon**
  Marvel at the towering Colossi of Memnon, twin statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have watched over the Theban Necropolis for more than 3,000 years. A breathtaking photo stop amid Luxor's open-air history.
- **Explore Temple of Hatshepsut**
  Admire the stunning mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of ancient Egypt's most remarkable female rulers. Set beneath dramatic cliffs, its elegant terraces celebrate her reign and divine legacy.
- **Explore Valley of the Kings**
  Explore the legendary Valley of the Kings, burial site of Egypt's greatest pharaohs, including Tutankhamun. Step inside beautifully painted tombs that reveal stories of the afterlife and royal power.
- **Explore Deir el in Medina**
  Discover Deir el-Medina, the ancient village of artisans who built and decorated the royal tombs. Its beautifully preserved wall paintings and workers' homes reveal the daily life of Egypt's master craftsmen.
- **Transfer to Station and Overnight Train Luxor → Cairo**
  Board the overnight seater train from Luxor to Cairo and travel in comfort as the rhythmic sound of the rails carries you north. Enjoy the unique experience of a night on board, with dinner and breakfast served while passing through the timeless Egyptian landscape.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Overnight seater train	Breakfast	Hot air balloon in Luxor, Two way sleeper train upgrade, Karnak Temple tour

DAY 13

Arrive in Cairo. Optional day trips available

Reach Cairo and complete the transfer to your hotel before an unstructured period in the capital. No fixed sightseeing is included, so any visits to Coptic, Islamic or desert sites would need to be arranged separately as optional activities. The day remains focused on arrival, hotel transfer and personal time, allowing travellers to choose between rest and independent exploration without treating suggested excursions as guaranteed.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival in Cairo**
  Arrive back in Cairo this morning and transfer to your hotel.
- **Free Time at Cairo**
  Enjoy some leisure time in Cairo to relax, explore local cafés, or take in the city's vibrant streets before continuing your journey.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Cairo 3-star hotel	None	Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis, Alexandria day trip, Cairo city tour, Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

DAY 14

Cairo. Departure airport transfer

Your time is free today for some last minute sightseeing or shopping until your transfer to the airport for your departure flight. If you have an afternoon or evening flight departure, then a half-day tour of Coptic Cairo and the Citadel is available today, or you could take another half-day tour to learn more about the evolution of pyramid building at Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis. tours are also available today. Alternatively you can add extra nights to your time in Cairo which would allow you to take a day trip to the colonial city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast, or a trip into the desert outside Cairo to see the World Heritage Site of the Valley of the Whales at Wadi Rayan.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time at Cairo**
  Enjoy some leisure time in Cairo to relax, explore local cafés, or take in the city's vibrant streets before continuing your journey.
- **Departure Transfer: Cairo Hotel to Airport**
  Transfer from your Cairo hotel to the airport for your departing flight. Reflect on your unforgettable journey through Egypt as you bid farewell to this historic land.
- **Departure from Cairo International Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Cairo International Airport, where you complete departure formalities and continue with

your onward flight.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	Cairo city tour

INCLUDED

- 8 nights accommodation in 3 & 4-star hotels
- 1 night in comfortable Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- 1 night in a Nubian guesthouse in Aswan
- 1 night on Nile felucca sailboat with accompanying support boat with toilet & shower (hotel upgrade available)
- 2 nights on the overnight seater train (sleeper train upgrade available)
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles (plus Bedouin jeeps in Wadi Rum)
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- 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
- Services of a specialist tour guides for sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- Amman-Cairo flight (available on request or bookable with your international flight ticket)
- Visa fees (Free Jordan visa included in the Jordan Pass; Egypt US$25)
- Entrance fees in Jordan (included in the Jordan Pass, to be purchased in advance, JD78, approx. US$110)
- Entrance fees in Egypt (allow approx. US$75)
- Tipping kitty in Egypt (allow US$65)
- Guide Tips in Jordan and Egypt
- Tips in Jordan
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Hotel gala dinners (see Tour notes)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Any other items not mentioned above

Notes

Hotel Gala Dinners

Many of Egypt and Jordan's hotels arrange a very special gala dinner with entertainment in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Payment for these is often optional on Christmas Eve (24 Dec) but normally compulsory on New Year's Eve (31 Dec), whether you attend or not. Prices can range from around US$50 to over US$180 per person in 5-star hotels. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. We aim to always select hotels that make their Gala Dinners optional, though this is not always possible, especially for New Year's Eve. Gala dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices above, but will be added to your booking if they become required. Please budget accordingly. More information is available on request.

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.

Hot air balloon in Luxor

Min numbers: 1

This popular optional tour starts early in the morning so that you experience the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, temples and desert. We endeavour to use the earliest flights of the day as they are timed to fit with the rising sun, this means that times may vary. You get around 1 hour in the air.
The price of this option is approximately $170.00. Please note that this option is only available to be booked locally, via your tour guide who will also advise you of the current price.

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

Min numbers: 1

This tour provides a great contrast to the Pharaonic sites you have visited on the rest of your tour. We leave Cairo and head to the Fayoum region where we head for the Wadi Rayan Protected Area, which surrounds a fresh-water lake in the middle of the desert, filled by the remaining irrigation water from the Fayoum area. There are several waterfalls here (popular in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide which gives good views of the lakes birdlife, particularly in the winter months when the lake is an important stop for migrating water-birds. We also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, and host to many different plants and animals, including Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox and Fennec Fox. Before lunch, we'll make a stop in the sand dunes surrounding Wadi Rayan to have a go at Sandboarding. After a stop for a packed lunch, we then drive into the stunning desert & mountain scenery of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is accepted as the most significant site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of whales, and we take a 2-3km walk here to see several specimens of fossilised whales of different types sitting on the surface of the sand, as well as fossilised mangroves and the remains of crab holes.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged straight after you arrive back in Cairo from Luxor/Aswan from the overnight sleeper train. We can also arrange it on any tour if you add extra days before and after your main tour. Prices shown are based on 2 or more people travelling, with an additional supplement due for

solo travellers.

Entrance fees are excluded, please budget $25 per person.

Abu Simbel overland

Min numbers: 2

The temples built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel are one of Egypt's highlights, and have a fascinating story behind them to go with their impressive size. When Lake Nasser was flooded, the final water level was going to submerge several temples, the most important of which being Abu Simbel. The temple was therefore dismantled completely and rebuilt further up the hillside where it sits today. The temple stands today as a testament to Ramses II and the great building prowess of the ancient Egyptians, as well as to modern engineering. We depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 4am), with the aim of getting to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun. We then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). The tour itinerary is designed so you will not miss any other activities if you choose this option.
Note - we choose the overland route to get to Abu Simbel as the flight times there are unreliable and the journey using the flight is much more segmented (you get more rest on the coach), not to mention it is much more expensive to fly. Please note that we only offer Abu Simbel by Flight on private or tailor-made tours.
Entrance fees to the site (approx. US$17, 50% for children) are not included in the option price and should be paid locally . A minimum of 2 people is required to operate this option.

Two way sleeper train upgrade

Min numbers: 1

This option provides an upgrade to the sleeper train from the overnight seater train that we use on this tour for the Cairo-Aswan and Luxor-Cairo journeys. On the sleeper train you have a private twin-berthed cabin, which features two large seats; fold down beds with mattress, sheets, pillow, blanket; storage locker and wash basin. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are included. The carriage steward will make up and put away your beds in the evening and morning. All transfers between your hotel and the station are also included. Single cabin supplements apply.

Request a quote for Amman to Cairo flight

Min numbers: 1

This flight is a required part of the tour. It is left out of the set tour price as it is often more cost effective for you to include this flight as part of your main international flight ticket. We are happy to book all your flights, just the Amman-Cairo flight, or none of them at all, whichever works best for you. UK residents will need to book their own flights. Direct flights are available with both Egypt Air and Royal Jordanian Airlines. You can fly at anytime during the day - all transfers in Amman and Cairo are included. If you add this option to your booking, we will get back to you with a quotation for this flight.

Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

Min numbers: 1

This half day guided tour on the outskirts of Cairo tour provides more insight into the history and evolution of pyramid building, and of the Egyptian civilisation. Our tours are based in the area of ancient Memphis, a former capital of Egypt. First we'll visit Saqqara, a huge desert necropolis which was built for the kings and nobles of the Old Kingdom. Here we see Zoser's 'step' pyramid and the adjacent Imhotep museum where we learn more about Memphis and the history of the region. Next we head to Dashour to see one of the next attempts at pyramid building. Dashour's moniker of the 'bent pyramid' shows they still had a bit to learn, but this is a fascinating site and the pyramid still has much of its original limestone cladding. We'll then return you to your hotel.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 people choosing the option. Entrance fees to the sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 21). Solo traveller 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.

Extra day in Cairo post-tour (3-star)

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: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Luxor Museum tour

Min numbers: 1

The Luxor Museum has a much smaller collection than the huge Egyptian Museum in Cairo, but the collection is beautifully displayed and includes some very important and impressive specimens. These include a huge red granite head of Amenhotep III, a calcite double statue of the crocodile god Sobek and some items from

Tutankhamun's tomb such as boats, sandles and arrows. There are also some items from the periods after the end of Pharaonic Egypt. The museum is normally open in the mornings from 9am-2pm and then in the evenings from 5pm-9pm. Your guide will advise you of current opening times and arrange a guided visit to fit around your other sightseeing.

Prices are based on a minimum of people travelling. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to sites visited are not included - please budget approx. USD 9

Karnak Temple tour

Min numbers: 1

This tour takes you to the huge Karnak Temple Complex on the East bank of the Nile in Luxor. Karnak is connected to Luxor Temple by a long 2.4km avenue of Sphinxes, which is currently being opened up and restored. The site started being built over 4000 years ago and construction continued until Roman times with many Pharaohs adding their own additions and alterations. The entire site covers around 200 acres (1.5km x 0.8km) and is often considered the largest religious building in the world. There are temples dedicated to several different gods, a huge Hypostyle Hall containing 134 massive columns, several obelisks including one 30m tall erected by Queen Hatchepsut and a sacred stone walled lake.
You will spend several hours in the site with one of our Egyptologist guides with transfers to and from your hotel included.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 people travelling. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees are not included (budget approx. $13)

Felucca to Hotel upgrade

Min numbers: 1

If you would like some more comfort in place of sleeping on the deck of the felucca, then this option provides an extra night in the hotel or Nubian guesthouse accommodation in Aswan instead. You can still do some sailing on the boat in the afternoon and enjoy a meal on board, before getting dropped off and transferred back to your accommodation. Dinner is not included. You then rejoin the rest of the group after they finish on the felucca before continuing with the tour. Single room 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.

Pyramids Camel Ride

Min numbers: 1

Experience the Giza Pyramids from a unique vantage point with an optional camel ride. This excursion takes you across the desert to a scenic view point, offering panoramic views of the pyramids. Capture memorable photos and enjoy the desert landscape.

River Nile Kayaking

Min numbers: 1

Experience the Nile from a unique perspective with our optional kayaking trip. We'll collect you from your Nubian Guesthouse and transfer you to the starting location, where you'll receive a safety briefing before embarking on your adventure. Paddle your own single kayak along the Nile for 30-45 minutes, enjoying the scenic river views. We'll then arrive at Mud Island, where you'll have free time to relax and, if desired and permitted, take a refreshing swim in the Nile. To avoid paddling against the current, we'll return to the hotel by motorboat.

Safety is our priority:

- A support motorboat accompanies the kayaking trip.
- Life jackets are provided for all participants.
- A qualified lifeguard will be present throughout the activity.

Cairo Sunset Felucca

Min numbers: 1

Take a relaxing felucca ride on the Nile at sunset. See Cairo's landmarks from the water as the sky changes colour. Enjoy a peaceful break from the city, and get great photo opportunities of the skyline. This trip offers a calm way to experience the Nile and create memorable moments of your time in Egypt.

The price of this option is based on a minimum of 2 travellers, single supplements may apply when this tour is operated for just 1 passenger.

Cairo Tower inc.transfers

Min numbers: 1

Experience breathtaking panoramic views of Cairo by night with an optional evening visit to the iconic Cairo Tower. This trip includes convenient round-trip transfers from your hotel, ensuring a comfortable and hassle-free journey.

Ascend to the tower's observation deck and witness the city's glittering skyline, the Nile River, and the illuminated landmarks stretching into the distance.

Please note: The Cairo Tower entrance fee is not included and is approximately $8. Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers, a single supplement applies when this tour is operated for just 1 adult.

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Visit

Min numbers: 1

Elevate your Egyptian exploration with an unmissable optional guided visit to the awe-inspiring, brand new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Cairo. This monumental museum is a landmark achievement, eagerly anticipated for years, and now ready to share its treasures with the world. We will provide comfortable and convenient return transportation directly from your accommodation to the museum, allowing you to relax and anticipate the wonders ahead without the hassle of navigating Cairo's bustling streets.

Upon arrival, you will embark on an enlightening tour led by an expert guide. They will bring the wonders of the GEM to life, providing fascinating insights into Egypt's rich and captivating history and navigating you through its vast collections. Your guide will highlight the most significant artefacts, ensuring you don't miss the key exhibits, including colossal statues, intricate jewellery, and the famed treasures of Tutankhamun, all presented in a state-of-the-art setting befitting their historical importance. This guided experience will deepen your understanding and appreciation of the splendours on display.

Please be aware that the entrance fee to the Grand Egyptian Museum is not included in the cost of this optional excursion. As of the time of publication (June 2026), the standard entrance fee is approximately $35 per person.

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to be among the early visitors to what is destined to become one of the world's most important cultural institutions, all while benefiting from the knowledge and passion of a dedicated guide. Secure your place on this excursion and prepare for an unforgettable and insightful encounter with the splendours of ancient Egypt in a truly twenty-first-century museum.

Karnak Sound & Light Show

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of Karnak Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the Egyptian sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

Siwa Oasis Extension (3 Nights)

Min numbers: 1

Discover the wonders of Siwa Oasis on a 4-day optional tour from Cairo, featuring ancient sites, unique natural landscapes like salt lakes and desert springs, and cultural experiences before returning to Cairo.

Philae Sound and Light Show

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of Philae Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the desert sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

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.

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.

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.

In Egypt we include a night in a friendly Nubian guesthouse and one night on board a felucca sailboat.

An upgrade is also available on the Jordan section of the tour to local 5-star hotels in Amman and Petra if you would like a more luxurious stay. 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.

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

Gala Dinners:

Many of Egypt and Jordan’s hotels and Nile cruise boats arrange a very special Gala Dinner with entertainment in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Payment for these is often optional on Christmas Eve (24 Dec) but compulsory on New Year's Eve (31 Dec), whether you attend or not. Prices can range from around US$30 to over US$150 per person. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. We aim to always select hotels that make their Gala Dinners optional, though this is is not always possible. Gala Dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices, and will be added to your booking if required. More information is available on request.

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2 Felucca Sailboat

This tour features an overnight felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and are a fun and relaxing way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses and some blankets are provided, but we suggest that you bring a sleeping sheet, blanket or light sleeping bag during the winter months of November-February). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times during the day and at night by our support boat where a toilet and shower is available. Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian boat crew will prepare your meals while on board and entertain you in the evening.

If you would like some more comfort, then an option is available locally to upgrade to a hotel for the night in place of the felucca. You will still spend the afternoon on the boat and have dinner with the group, but then return to the accommodation in Aswan. The price covers the hotel accommodation, breakfast, and the additional transfers back to the hotel and to rejoin the group after they finish on the felucca.

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3 Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options and uses an air-conditioned minivan/minibus or coach subjec tto the size of the group for all the transfers, sightseeing, and journeys between cities. 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.

The drives between Cairo and Luxor follows the Nile Valley and take around 9 hours driving time, with several stops along the way for refreshments, toilet stops, and to tour the sites at Dendara and Abydos on the return journey. These drives are done in the afternoon & evening, arriving in Luxor/Cairo late in the evening to check into your hotel for the night.

In the rare event that there are only 2 or 3 people in the group, the itinerary in Egypt will be adjusted slightly. Instead of driving between Cairo and Aswan/Luxor, these journeys will be done by sleeper train instead. You will enjoy a private twin-bedded cabin with fold down beds (bedding provided), a sink, table and storage locker. An airline-tray style evening meal and breakfast are included. The Abydos & Dendara visit will be replaced by including the normally optional tour to Karnak Temple.

Amman-Cairo flight

The connecting flight from Amman to Cairo is not included in the price of this tour. It is left out of the set tour price as it is sometimes more cost effective for you to include this flight as part of your main international flight ticket. We are happy to assist with all your flights, just the Amman-Cairo flight, or none of them at all, whichever works best for you. Direct flights are available with both Egypt Air and Royal Jordanian Airlines. You can fly at anytime during the day - all transfers in Amman and Cairo are included.

4 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.

In Jordan, 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.

In Egypt we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologists to act as your tour guides for all of the sightseeing tours in Cairo and the Nile Valley.

Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service, and will be handling all the practical arrangements for the tour. We also use local Bedouin guides for tours through the desert.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local Jordanian and Egyptian 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.

5 Dates & Prices

We run regular departures on this tour throughout the year, starting on Sundays. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of two travellers. Departure dates & prices are on our website (please check the website for up-to-date prices & special offers). The tour can also be run privately on any other dates.

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.

On tours combining Jordan and Egypt we do not include the connecting flight between the two countries in the tour price (normally between Amman (AMM) and Cairo (CAI) - see the inclusions/exclusions or extension option sections for details). This flight can often be built into your main international flight ticket, or we may be able to book this flight for you separately if you prefer - please contact us and we will advise you on available airlines, times and prices.

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

Jordan: Tipping is common practice in Jordan, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. US$10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Egypt: Tipping is also very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs, and many people you meet along the way will expect and make it clear they are waiting for a tip. To make it easier for you to budget and to remove much of the stress and hassle of tipping lots of people as you go along, we collect a 'Tipping Kitty' at the start of your time in Egypt. The kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Your guide will pay some of these tips as you go along on behalf of the group, and others are paid by our local reps in each location before or after your visit (eg. hotel housekeeping staff). Please check the Excluded section below the tour itinerary for a budget for this tour. Your Egyptologist guide is not included in this kitty and you may tip them at the end of your tour subject to your satisfaction with and appreciation of the service they have provided. Again you should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. As a guideline, approx. US$10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Children under the age of 12 do not need to pay this tipping kitty.

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8 Transfers

Our Egypt and Jordan tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Amman and Cairo airports, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers.

On arrival in Jordan our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Amman airport, before passport control. They will assist with visa formalities and then help you with your luggage and take you to your hotel.

On arrival in Egypt, our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport before you get to passport control. They will assist with visa formalities before helping you collect your luggage and taking you to your hotel.

Your airport transfers are only 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.

On our Shoestring group tours we do offer optional hotel upgrades in Jordan. This may mean that additional pick-up and drop-offs are required 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.

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9 Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the sites visited on the tour.

Jordan:

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.

Egypt:

In Egypt, the tour price does not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. Please check the Exclusions section for a guide to the amount you should allow for this tour (a 50% discount for minors or ISIC card holders is often, but not always available and prices are changed from time to time). For your convenience, your guide will be normally collect payment for all the entrance fees in cash at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along.

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10 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt and 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: Most of your time in Egypt will be in a hot weather, while the climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. However, at night, and 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 on the cruise boats or in 4 or 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt and Jordan, especially for women, so to respect the local culture & 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). In the centre of Cairo and Amman, and when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: We recommend that you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, small towel, money belt, small torch, camera & charger. If you will be travelling on a felucca sailboat in Egypt then we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner all year round for comfort, and a light sleeping bag in the winter months (November to February). If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp in Jordan then bedding (sheets, blankets, pillow) 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.

Footwear: For tours that are going on board a felucca sailboat, or walking on the Siq Trail in Wadi Mujib, we recommend that you bring some footwear that you don't mind getting completely wet. As there is a fair amount of walking involved on many of our tours in Jordan and Egypt, whether that be just sightseeing or some hiking, we recommend you bring comfortable walking shoes with you. You do not need any smart dress shoes, unless you want to visit some fancy restaurants and to dresss up accordingly.

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11 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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12 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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13 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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14 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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15 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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16 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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17 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.

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18 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.

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19 Passports and Visas - Egypt

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.

We recommend that you contact your closest Egyptian consulate or embassy for current information for your nationality.

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport. An online e-visa is available through visa2egypt. Please do not use any other website as there are many scam sites offering Egypt e-visas.
In practice however, many nationalities (including British and European, Australian, New Zealand, USA) can and do obtain their visas on arrival in Cairo airport. The process is much quicker and simpler, the cost is currently **US$30 p/p** and must be paid in hard currency (i.e. GBP, USD or EUR) - you'll be given change in local currency if necessary. There are no forms to fill in and you don't need to bring passport photos. Visas are issued at one of the bank desks in the immigration hall, before you get to passport control. If flying into Cairo International Airport our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

Important Update from 1st August 2026:
As per the ongoing efforts to enhance visitor services and facilitate entry procedures into Egypt, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new Digital Visa-on-Arrival System.
The new system replaces the current paper visa sticker with a fully digital process, providing a faster, more efficient, and seamless arrival experience for international travelers.

Pilot Phase:
The pilot phase will start on 1 August 2026 at Cairo International Airport (all arrival terminals) as the first stage of implementation.
During this pilot phase, both the new digital system and the current paper visa system will operate in parallel for a limited period to ensure a smooth transition. The duration of the pilot phase will be announced in due course.
Following the successful completion of the pilot phase, the current paper visa-on-arrival system will be discontinued, and the digital system will become the standard visa-on-arrival process. The rollout to all other Egyptian airports will then take place gradually according to an implementation schedule, which will be shared with you in advance.

- **Key Features of the New System:**
  Travelers may obtain a Visa QR Code instead of the current paper sticker, this will be through: the official

online portal (https://apps.visaonarrival.gov.eg/); the dedicated mobile application; or a self-service machine (SSM) located in Cairo International Airport arrival halls.

- After receiving the QR code; on email, or printed from the SSMs, it will be scanned by the passport control officer upon checking in with his/her passport.
- The QR Code may be issued before travel, onboard of a flight, or after arrival to the entry port, either by the traveler or through a travel agency.
- The QR Code will remain valid for up to 48 hours from the time of issuance.
- The total fees will be USD36, comprising: USD30 visa fee; and USD6 issuing and service fee (please note that whilst debit cards are accepted, credit cards are not).
- Once the new system is fully implemented, the current paper visa sticker will no longer be available.
- According to the progress of the Pilot Phase, we will announce the time plan for implementation in the other airports in Egypt.

All African & Indian nationals, and some others, will need to obtain their visas in advance.

For further information on your visa requirements, please either contact us or your local Egyptian embassy/consulate.

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20 Money - Egypt

The local currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound, often denoted 'LE'. The Egyptian Pound can vary significantly in value against the British Pound, but sticks fairly close to the value of the US Dollar. You do not need to arrange to bring any Egyptian Pounds with you to Egypt, as change facilities are available in all the hotels, airports and banks. 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 Egypt 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 Egyptian Pounds. You may also need to pay for the tour Tipping Kitty and site Entrance Fees while you are in Egypt. Payments for these may be made to your tour guide in hard currency (USD, GBP, EUR) at the start of your tour. Please see your tour Included/Excluded details for more information and guideline amounts for these.

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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21 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.

22 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.

23 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.

24 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.

25 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.