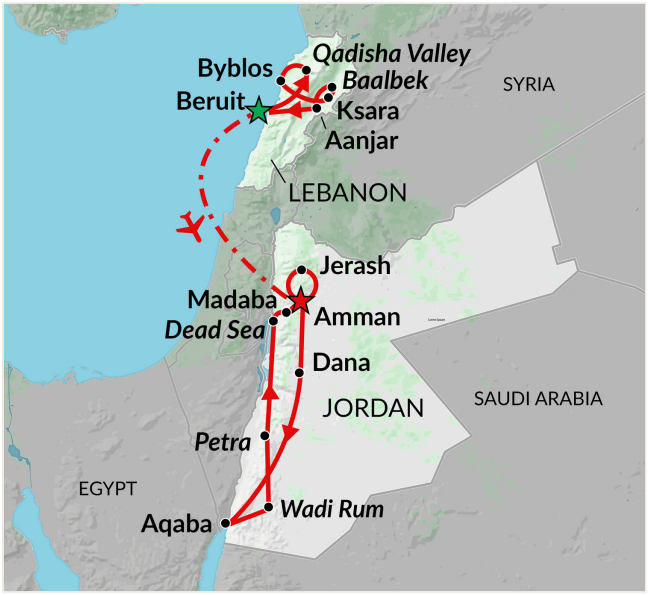
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Lebanon & Jordan Encounters

COUNTRY(IES)	Jordan , Lebanon
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C car/minibus/coach
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 14
DURATION	16 days
STARTS	Beirut, Lebanon
ENDS	Amman, Jordan
MEALS	Breakfasts - 15, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 2

TOUR ROUTE MAP **16 Days**



ROUTE: **Beirut** (Start) → **Kadisha Valley** → **Byblos** → **Zahle** → **Beirut** → **Amman** → **Beirut** → **Amman** → **Aqaba** → **Wadi Rum** → **Petra** → **Dead Sea** → **Amman** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Beirut, Beiteddine, Tyre, Sidon, Aanjar, Baalbek, Bsharri, Qadisha Valley, Byblos, As-Salt, Amman Food Tasting, Dana Hike, Red Sea in Aqaba, Wadi Rum Bedouin Experience, Petra Reverse Hike, Dead Sea and Wadi Mujib Hike, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Jerash

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive in Beirut, transfer to hotel

Meet the representative at Beirut International Airport and transfer directly to the hotel. Once settled into the accommodation, enjoy the remaining time at leisure. You may relax after the journey or explore independently if you wish, keeping the arrival day flexible before the more structured sightseeing and activities that follow.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Beirut International Airport**
  Arrive at Beirut International Airport and meet your tour representative at the arrivals hall. You will be assisted before beginning your transfer into the city to check in at your hotel.

- **Transfer from Beirut Airport to City Hotel**
  Take a comfortable transfer from Beirut International Airport to your hotel in the city. This short journey brings you into Lebanon's vibrant capital to begin your stay.
- **Free Time in Beirut**
  Enjoy free time after your arrival to settle into your hotel or explore the surrounding streets at your own pace. Beirut's lively atmosphere offers plenty of cafés and shops within easy reach.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Beirut hotel	None

DAY 2 Jeita Grotto, Harissa cable car & Baatara Gorge

From Beirut, the day visits Jeita Grotto before climbing to Harissa and the Our Lady of Lebanon sanctuary overlooking the Mediterranean. Continue to Baatara Gorge and its dramatic vertical landscape, then visit Douma Village with its traditional stone architecture. The route finishes on the approach to the Qadisha Valley, linking several distinctive natural and cultural settings in Lebanon's mountains.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Beirut to Jeita**
  Leave Beirut and drive into the nearby hills towards Jeita. Pass coastal suburbs before heading inland to the grotto area.
- **Explore Jeita Grotto**
  Explore the impressive Jeita Grotto, a vast network of limestone caves featuring striking stalactites and stalagmites. Depending on water levels, you may visit both the upper galleries on foot and the lower caves by boat.
- **Drive from Jeita to Harissa**
  Continue by road up the mountainside to Harissa above Jounieh Bay. Enjoy increasingly panoramic views of the coastline as you ascend.
- **Explore Harissa (Our Lady of Lebanon)**
  Visit the important Christian shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa and ascend by cable car to the hilltop basilica. From here, enjoy sweeping views across the Bay of Jounieh, one of the Middle East's most beautiful coastlines.
- **Drive from Harissa to Baatara Gorge**
  Drive inland through mountain scenery to reach the Baatara Gorge sinkhole. Journey past rural villages and terraced hillsides on the way.
- **Explore Baatara Gorge**
  Discover the Baatara Gorge sinkhole, a dramatic cavern with three natural stone bridges and a seasonal 255-metre waterfall. The site offers spectacular views, short walking trails, and a chance to explore the surrounding mountain village of Douma.

- **Drive from Baatara Gorge to Douma Village**
  Travel a short distance to the traditional mountain village of Douma. Arrive in time to wander its old streets and squares.
- **Explore Douma Village**
  Stroll through Douma, known for its stone houses and red-tiled roofs. Enjoy a traditional lunch and experience rural Lebanese village life.
- **Drive from Douma Village to Qadisha Valley**
  Drive onward to the scenic Qadisha (Holy) Valley. Arrive at the monastery or guesthouse where you will spend the night.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Qadisha Valley monastery or guesthouse	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 3 Qadisha Valley, Cedars Ski Resort & Becharre

Begin with time in the Qadisha Valley, with optional morning prayers available for those who wish to join the monks before breakfast. Continue to Becharre for the Gibran Museum and then to the Cedars area, including the Cedars of God. Afterwards, travel to Byblos and spend time among the archaeological remains and harbour, completing a day that connects monastic landscapes, literary heritage, ancient forests and Phoenician history.

ACTIVITIES

- **Hike the Qadisha Valley**
  Enjoy a short morning hike through the Qadisha Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its dramatic cliffs and hidden monastic caves. The valley offers peaceful scenery, historic hermit sites, and beautiful natural landscapes.
- **Drive from Qadisha Valley to Becharre**
  Travel from the valley up to the nearby town of Becharre. Enjoy views over forested slopes and mountain peaks on the way.
- **Explore Becharre (Gibran Museum)**
  Visit the Gibran Museum in Becharre, dedicated to the life and works of Lebanese poet and artist Kahlil Gibran. Explore his manuscripts, paintings, and personal belongings in the village where he was born.
- **Explore Cedars of God Forest**
  Explore the Cedars of God, one of Lebanon's last surviving ancient cedar groves mentioned in the Old Testament. This protected forest offers beautiful mountain scenery and a glimpse of the country's national tree.
- **Drive from Becharre to Byblos**
  Drive from Becharre to the coastal city of Byblos, travelling through scenic mountain and valley roads. The route offers views of rural villages before descending to one of Lebanon's oldest and most historic cities.
- **Discover Byblos Ruins**
  Explore the ancient ruins of Byblos, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Wander through its Phoenician, Roman, and Crusader remains while enjoying views of the harbour and medieval fortifications.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Byblos hotel	Breakfast

DAY 4 Morning in Byblos, Ksara Winery

Spend time at leisure in Byblos before travelling inland to Ksara for a winery visit. The stop provides an introduction to Lebanese wine production and the history associated with the estate. Afterwards, drive onwards to Zahlé and enjoy some unstructured time in the town, moving from the coastal surroundings of Byblos into the very different agricultural landscapes of the Beqaa Valley.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Byblos**
  Enjoy a free morning to wander Byblos' markets and seafront at your own pace. Relax in cafes or browse local crafts in the old souk.
- **Drive from Byblos to Ksara**
  Travel from Byblos to the Ksara region, passing coastal landscapes and rolling inland hills. This scenic route leads you toward Lebanon's historic wine-producing heartland.
- **Explore Ksara Winery**
  Visit Chateau Ksara, Lebanon's oldest winery, known for its vast cave tunnels used as natural cellars. Enjoy a guided tour of the historic site followed by a wine tasting session featuring the estate's renowned varieties.
- **Drive from Ksara to Zahlé**
  Continue from Ksara to nearby Zahlé, a charming town in the Beqaa Valley. The short journey offers views of vineyards, fertile plains, and the surrounding mountains.
- **Free Time in Zahlé**
  Spend free time in Zahlé, a pleasant town in the Bekaa Valley. Enjoy its riverside promenade, cafes or relaxed evening atmosphere.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Zahle guesthouse	Breakfast

DAY 5 Baalbeck & Anjar

Visit Baalbek first and focus on its major Roman religious complex before travelling onwards to Anjar. The second site preserves an unusually clear example of Umayyad town planning, with public buildings, baths and commercial areas still visible. These two archaeological locations form the entire supported sightseeing programme, and the afternoon concludes with the drive back to Beirut without adding wineries or other Bekaa Valley stops.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Zahlé to Baalbek**
  Travel from Zahlé deeper into the Bekaa Valley to reach Baalbek. See fertile fields framed by surrounding mountain ranges.
- **Explore Baalbek Temple Complex**
  Explore the vast Baalbek temple complex, one of the greatest surviving examples of Roman architecture. Wander through monumental temples dedicated to Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury, each showcasing intricate stonework and extraordinary preservation.
- **Drive from Baalbek to Anjar**
  Drive from Baalbek to the nearby Umayyad site of Anjar. Cross the Bekaa Valley past orchards and villages.
- **Explore Anjar Ruins**
  Visit the Umayyad ruins of Anjar, a planned 8th-century city built by Caliph Walid. Discover its mosques, palaces, baths, and over 600 ancient shops that once formed an important commercial hub in the Bekaa Valley.
- **Drive from Anjar to Beirut**
  Travel from Anjar back to Beirut through the scenic Bekaa Valley and surrounding mountains. This afternoon drive brings you to the city for your overnight stay.
- **Free Time in Beirut**
  Enjoy free time after your arrival to settle into your hotel or explore the surrounding streets at your own pace. Beirut's lively atmosphere offers plenty of cafés and shops within easy reach.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Beirut hotel	Breakfast

DAY 6 Deir al Qamar, Beiteddine & Beirut City Tour

Begin in the Chouf Mountains with time in Deir al Qamar, a historic stone village that once served as Lebanon’s capital. Continue to Beiteddine Palace and explore its courtyards, mosaics and refined nineteenth-century architecture. Return to Beirut in the afternoon for a city tour including the Souks, Corniche, Downtown and Pigeon Grotto, combining mountain heritage with a broad introduction to the capital’s urban and coastal character.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Beirut to Deir al Qamar**
  Travel from Beirut into the Chouf Mountains toward the historic village of Deir al Qamar. The scenic drive passes traditional stone houses and terraced hillsides, offering a glimpse of rural Lebanese landscapes.
- **Explore Deir al Qamar**
  Explore the historic village of Deir al Qamar, once the capital of Lebanon in the 17th century. Its narrow lanes, stone houses and historic squares showcase the character and heritage of the Chouf region.
- **Drive from Deir al Qamar to Beiteddine Palace**
  Continue from Deir al Qamar to the nearby Beiteddine Palace through winding mountain roads. The short drive offers views of forested hills and traditional villages along the route.

- **Explore Beiteddine Palace**
  Visit the 19th-century Beiteddine Palace, an architectural masterpiece built by Emir Bashir. Its ornate courtyards, arched halls, and preserved interiors reflect the luxury and craftsmanship of the Ottoman era.
- **Drive from Beiteddine to Beirut**
  Travel from Beiteddine back to Beirut, descending from the Chouf Mountains toward the Mediterranean coast. The drive offers changing scenery as rural landscapes give way to the vibrant capital.
- **Walk Through Beirut City**
  Take a city walk through Beirut, exploring its blend of modern architecture, historic quarters, and coastal scenery. Highlights include the Beirut Souks, the Corniche, downtown landmarks, and the famous Raouché Pigeon Rocks.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Beirut hotel	Breakfast

DAY 7 Tyre & Sidon

Travel through southern Lebanon with visits first in Tyre and then Sidon. Tyre provides the principal archaeological focus, while Sidon adds the Sea Castle, Great Mosque, Khan el Franj and old souks. After completing the scheduled sightseeing, continue north to Beirut. The day remains centred on the named Phoenician, Crusader and urban heritage sites without introducing additional stops beyond those provided.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Beirut to Tyre**
  Drive south from Beirut along the coast towards Tyre. The journey follows the Mediterranean shoreline past several coastal towns.
- **Explore Tyre Archaeological Site**
  Explore the ancient city of Tyre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site rich in Phoenician and Roman history. The archaeological area showcases extensive ruins, coastal views, and centuries of cultural significance.
- **Drive from Tyre to Sidon**
  Leave Tyre and drive north to Sidon. The short coastal drive links two of Lebanon's most historic ports.
- **Explore Sidon Sea Castle**
  Visit Sidon, one of the oldest Phoenician cities, known for its Crusader Sea Castle and historic old town. Explore its mosques, old markets, and traditional caravanserai, reflecting centuries of coastal Lebanese culture.
- **Explore Sidon Great Mosque (Al in Omari Mosque)**
  Visit the historic Sidon Great Mosque, a significant medieval Islamic landmark built over a former Crusader structure. Its courtyard, arches, and restored prayer hall reflect centuries of Lebanese coastal heritage.
- **Explore Khan el Franj**
  Explore Khan el Franj, a 17th-century caravanserai built for merchants and travelers. Its stone courtyard and arcaded rooms offer insight into Sidon's former role as a major Levantine trading hub.

- **Explore Sidon Old Souks**
  Walk through Sidon's atmospheric old souks, filled with traditional workshops, spice stalls, and local crafts. These narrow market streets reflect the city's vibrant everyday culture and historic trading traditions.
- **Drive from Sidon to Beirut**
  Travel north from Sidon along the Mediterranean coast to reach Beirut. This scenic transfer links two of Lebanon's most historic and vibrant cities.
- **Free Time in Beirut**
  Enjoy free time after your arrival to settle into your hotel or explore the surrounding streets at your own pace. Beirut's lively atmosphere offers plenty of cafés and shops within easy reach.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Beirut hotel	Breakfast

DAY 8 Fly to Amman, free time

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.

Beirut City Moments and Departure

Spend the first part of the day at leisure in Beirut, with no organised sightseeing planned before your departure. At the appropriate time, travel to Beirut International Airport and continue by air to Amman. The combination of free time and scheduled transfer allows you to finish your stay in Lebanon at an easy pace before continuing onwards to the next country.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Beirut**
  Enjoy free time after your arrival to settle into your hotel or explore the surrounding streets at your own pace. Beirut's lively atmosphere offers plenty of cafés and shops within easy reach.
- **Drive from Beirut to Beirut International Airport**
  Transfer from your Beirut hotel to Beirut International Airport for your onward flight. This short drive marks the start of your travel day as you depart Lebanon and head to Egypt.

- **Travel from Flight Beirut to Amman**
  Fly from Beirut to Amman to start the Jordan section of your tour. The direct flight links Lebanon's capital with Jordan's.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Amman hotel	Breakfast

DAY 9 As-Salt, Amman City and Local Food Tasting

Leave Amman for As-Salt and spend time discovering this historic town before driving back to the capital. Take in a panoramic city overview, then visit the Citadel and Roman Theatre to explore some of Amman's most significant ancient remains. A local food tasting completes the sightseeing with an introduction to Jordanian flavours and gives the day a more personal connection to contemporary life in the city.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to As-Salt**
  Scenic drive from Amman to the historic hilltop town of As-Salt.
- **Explore As-Salt**
  Explore the charming hilltop town of As-Salt, once a key trading hub and the former capital of Jordan. Stroll through its narrow lanes and learn about its unique mix of Islamic and Christian heritage on the fascinating “Harmony Trail.
- **Drive from As-Salt to Amman**
  Return drive from As-Salt back to Amman for afternoon touring.
- **City Tour of Amman Panoramic**
  Enjoy a panoramic tour of Amman, viewing key districts, modern neighbourhoods and historic areas. Gain an overview of the city before heading to your hotel.
- **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.
- **Taste Local Food in Amman**
  Experience authentic Jordanian flavours on a food-tasting tour through downtown Amman. Sample traditional dishes such as falafel, Manakish, and the national favourite Mansaf, finishing with the sweet delight of Knafeh.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Amman hotel	Breakfast,Dinner

DAY 10

Dana Biosphere Reserve hike. Drive to Aqaba

Drive from Amman to Dana Biosphere Reserve and explore part of the protected area on foot, taking in its steep valleys and dramatic geological scenery. After the hike, continue south by road to Aqaba. The journey provides a clear change in elevation and environment, moving from Jordan’s highland wilderness towards the warmer landscapes and Red Sea setting of the country’s southern coast.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to Dana Biosphere Reserve**
  Travel from Amman along the Desert Highway toward the Dana Biosphere Reserve.
- **Hike the Dana Biosphere Reserve**
  Take a guided hike through the Dana Biosphere Reserve, Jordan's largest nature reserve. Walk amid rugged canyons, terraced cliffs, and diverse plant and birdlife while enjoying sweeping views of the Great Rift Valley.
- **Drive from Dana to Aqaba**
  Travel from the mountain village of Dana through dramatic desert landscapes to the Red Sea city of Aqaba. This journey reveals Jordan's changing scenery, from highland ridges and rocky gorges to the coastal plains near the Gulf of Aqaba.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Aqaba Resort	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 11

Free morning in Aqaba and overnight Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp

Enter Jordan at Aqaba and travel onwards to Wadi Rum for arrival at the Bedouin camp. The scenery changes quickly from the Red Sea coast to open desert, red sand and sandstone formations. Once at camp, the remaining time is free to settle in and enjoy the quieter surroundings before the desert activities that follow.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Aqaba to Wadi Rum**
  Depart from the coastal city of Aqaba and drive into the desert wilderness of Wadi Rum. The journey takes you from the Red Sea shoreline into a landscape of towering sandstone cliffs and vast open valleys, a true taste of Jordan's rugged beauty.
- **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
Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp	Breakfast,Dinner

DAY 12

A jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum, travel to Petra

After breakfast in the camp, set out on a jeep safari through the sands and beneath the towering ‘jebels’ of Wadi Rum, stopping to climb sand dunes and to see some of the strange rock formations, including a spectacular rock bridge. The day also takes in local activities inspired by Bedouin traditions, walking with a local shepherd and his sheep and goats to a Bedouin tent. You can join in and learn about other traditional Bedouin activities too, such as shearing the sheep and goats’ hair, milking, grinding grains, making bread and roasting coffee until lunch is ready, a freshly prepared meal shared in the desert. Finally, after really getting a feel for nomadic Bedouin life, return by jeep to the camp and then drive north to Petra. You have the option of a spectacular and atmospheric introduction to Petra tonight with the Petra by Night tour, walking through the Siq to the Treasury, the whole way atmospherically lit up by hundreds of candles. This holdings pairs a full day among the red sands and towering cliffs of Wadi Rum with an evening arrival in Petra.

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 Petra**
  Depart Wadi Rum after your Bedouin adventure and drive north through Jordan's rugged desert landscapes toward Petra. Enjoy the scenic journey to the rose-red city, with the option to join the magical Petra by Night tour upon arrival.
- **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
Petra hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 13

Reverse-route mountain hike to Petra via Little Petra

Begin at Little Petra and explore the carved facades of Siq al-Barid before following a scenic trail through the surrounding sandstone landscape towards Petra. The route leads to the Monastery and then continues into the wider archaeological city, where ancient pathways and the Royal Tombs reveal the scale and craftsmanship of Nabataean construction. The gradual approach provides a distinctive way to enter Petra away from its better-known main entrance.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Little Petra (Siq al in Barid)**
  Explore Little Petra, a smaller Nabataean site featuring carved façades, narrow passages, and ancient frescoes. The area provides a fascinating introduction to the region before beginning the back-route hike into Petra.
- **Drive from Little Petra to Trailhead (Jeep Ride)**
  Take a short jeep transfer from Little Petra to the mountain trailhead. This quick ride positions you at the starting point of the scenic back-route trail leading into the Petra highlands.
- **Hike from Little Petra to Petra**
  Begin your adventure with a scenic hike from Little Petra along the mountain trail leading into the main site of Petra. This lesser-travelled back route offers stunning desert views, peaceful solitude, and a rewarding arrival at the magnificent Monastery before descending into the ancient city below.
- **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.
- **Discover Petra Main Site**
  Spend the day exploring Petra, Jordan's breathtaking Nabataean capital and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Walk through the Siq to the Treasury, admire the carved tombs and temples, and trace the ancient colonnaded streets that once thrived with traders and pilgrims.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Petra hotel	Breakfast

DAY 14 Dead Sea road to Wadi Mujib - Siq Trail Hike. Dead Sea 'swim'

After breakfast in Petra, follow the Dead Sea road north to Wadi Mujib, rewarded along the way with great views of the Salt Flats at the southern end of the Dead Sea. Continuing along the shores of the Dead Sea, the route reaches the visitor centre of Wadi Mujib, where you have time for lunch (not included) before entering the water and embarking on the hike. Descending into the gorge, you enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve, where between the months of April and October it is possible to take an exciting hike along the Siq Trail through the shallow waters that fill the narrow sandstone canyon; along the way you'll climb up small waterfalls where steps have been installed to make it easier, until eventually you reach the end of the gorge and can relax beneath a large waterfall. The entire hike generally takes two to three hours round trip, and a dry-bag (so your camera or mobile phone don't get wet) and water shoes are highly recommended , it is possible to hire a dry bag at the visitor centre for around US$7.00 and to purchase water shoes for US$7.00. Please note that in the months from November to March, when it isn't possible to hike along the Siq Trail, a visit to the Baptism site in Bethany is included instead: a relatively recently excavated site believed to be the biblical 'Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan' where John baptised Jesus Christ, where several churches, caves and pools dating from Roman and Byzantine periods have been discovered and where both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have visited, with an electric minibus taking you from the visitor centre to the three sites of Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist's Church. After a day of

activities, continue to the resort right on the banks of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, where free time allows you to swim , or rather float , in its incredibly salty waters and to relax by the hotel pool; don’t forget a newspaper or magazine for your iconic Dead Sea photo.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Petra to Wadi Mujib**
  Travel north from Petra along the Dead Sea highway toward Wadi Mujib. The drive offers striking views of desert cliffs, deep valleys, and the shimmering southern basin of the Dead Sea.
- **Explore Wadi Mujib Visitor Centre**
  Arrive at the Wadi Mujib Visitor Centre to prepare for your Siq Trail hike. This is the entry point to the reserve where you can rent gear, get safety instructions, and enjoy views of the gorge entrance.
- **Hike the Wadi Mujib Siq Trail**
  Embark on an adventurous hike through the Wadi Mujib Siq Trail, a narrow gorge filled with flowing water and natural pools. Between April and October, you'll wade, climb, and swim beneath waterfalls in one of Jordan's most thrilling outdoor experiences.
- **Drive from Wadi Mujib to Dead Sea Resort**
  Continue south along the Dead Sea shoreline toward your resort. The road offers sweeping coastal views and a tranquil descent toward the lowest point on Earth.
- **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
Dead Sea hotel	Breakfast

DAY 15 Madaba, Mount Nebo and Roman Jerash

Travel from the Dead Sea to Madaba and visit the Mosaic Map before continuing to Mount Nebo. Afterwards, head north to Jerash and spend time among one of Jordan’s most substantial Roman archaeological sites. The day concludes with the drive back to Amman, connecting several important cultural landmarks across central and northern Jordan without adding further sightseeing after the return.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Dead Sea to Madaba**
  Travel from the Dead Sea uphill to the mosaic-filled town of Madaba.

- **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.
- **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.
- **Drive from Mount Nebo to Jerash**
  Travel north from Mount Nebo toward the ancient Roman city of Jerash. The route passes agricultural plains and rolling landscapes before reaching the archaeological site.
- **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.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Amman hotel	Breakfast

DAY 16 — Free time in Amman, hotel to airport transfer included

The morning is free in Amman, allowing time for rest, shopping or an independent café visit before departure. Bethany on the Jordan River remains an optional excursion when timing allows. Later in the day, meet the airport transfer and travel to the terminal for your onward flight, completing the final organised journey after your time in Jordan.

ACTIVITIES

- **Departure Transfer Amman to Airport**
  Enjoy some free time in Amman before your scheduled airport transfer. We'll pick you up from your hotel and take you to Queen Alia International Airport in time for your departure flight.
- **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	Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Standard level

INCLUDED

- 5 nights in 3 to 4-star hotels in Beirut & Byblos
- 1 night in guesthouse/hotel in Zahle
- 1 night in monastery accommodation in Qadisha Valley
- 4 nights in 3 to 4-star hotels in Jordan
- 5 nights in 3 to 4-star hotels, 2 nights at resorts in Aqaba and the Dead Sea & overnight Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum in comfortable tents
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles
- All sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Wine tasting in Ksara Caves
- The Back Route hike into Petra
- Siq Trail Hike in Wadi Mujib
- Lebanon entrance fees
- English speaking guide for all tours
- 4x4 jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- International flight between Beirut and Amman (available on request)
- Visa fees (Lebanon - free on arrival for most nationalities, Jordan - available free as part of the Jordan Pass)
- Jordan Entrance fees (discounted package included in the Jordan Pass, available in advance for JD70)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Hotel gala dinner supplements if applied on Christmas & New Year's Eve
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Any other items not mentioned above

Notes

Winter route adjustment:

During the winter months (normally from December until sometime in May), many mountain roads in Lebanon are closed due to snow. During this period the tour will be adjusted to avoid the drive from Becharre to Zahle across the Col des Cedres. All the same places will be visited and the same activities included, but the itinerary will run as follows...

Days 1-2 - As above

Day 3 - Morning Beirut City Tour, then head to the Baatara Gorge to see the sinkhole, before finishing at the Qadisha Valley. Lunch included, and overnight at the Monastery or nearby guesthouse.

Day 4 - Morning hike in the Qadisha Valley, visit Becharre and the Cedars, then return to Byblos for overnight.

Day 5 - Explore Byblos, then drive to Zahle via Beirut, with stops on the way to discover Harissa by cable car, and to explore the Jeita Grotto. Overnight in Zahle

Days 6-8 - as 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.

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 Beirut - pre-tour

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: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Amman - post-tour

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 arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

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.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

Lebanon:

This tour uses a mix of accommodation including good quality 4-star hotels in Beirut and Byblos, a comfortable guesthouse Zahle and rooms in a separate new block at Monastery of St. Anthony in Qozhaya. Rooms at the monastery are simple but comfortable and en-suite and you may join the monks for their morning prayers.

Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. These are subject to change to alternative properties of a similar standard. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation for a private tour.

Jordan:

The hotels used on this tour are rated at the Jordanian 3 and 4-star level. Local star ratings may vary from international standards but we ensure we use some of the best hotels available at the level stated. We have also aimed to use hotels in Amman that have a better location than most, with a range of cafes and restaurants within easy walking distance. Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples

will have a private double room.

A friendly local homestay is included for one night in Rasoun village. Accommodation is in shared rooms holding up to 4 people. There are a number of homes in the village that will accommodate guests, so depending on our final group size we may split across several houses. We will all eat together in one house with the hosts, who will also provide a tour of the village. All beds and bedding are provided. Bathrooms are separate and shared but quite basic. Overall you can expect a simple but comfortable, and very welcoming experience with good food and interesting insights into local village life in rural Jordan.

In Wadi Rum we use a Bedouin camp located inside the Wadi Rum Protected Area. Accommodation is in permanent traditional goat hair tents with proper beds and all bedding provided. Bathrooms are separate, though some en-suite tents are also available and subject to availability you can upgrade to these locally if you wish. 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.

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2 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. Our routes in Lebanon/Jordan and the small distances involved mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. Vehicles will be selected to be comfortable for 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.

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3 Lebanon Winter Route Changes

Winter route adjustment:

During the winter months (normally from December until sometime in May), many mountain roads in Lebanon are closed due to snow. During this period the tour will be adjusted to avoid the drive from Becharre to Zahle across the Col des Cedres. All the same places will be visited and the same activities included, but the itinerary will run as follows...

Days 1-2 - As in summer
Day 3 - Morning Beirut City Tour, then head to the Baatara Gorge to see the sinkhole, before finishing at the Qadisha Valley. Lunch included, and overnight at the Monastery or nearby guesthouse.
Day 4 - Morning hike in the Qadisha Valley, visit Becharre and the Cedars, then return to Byblos for overnight.
Day 5 - Explore Byblos, then drive to Zahle via Beirut, with stops on the way to discover Harissa by cable car, and to explore the Jeita Grotto. Overnight in Zahle
Days 6 onwards - as in summer

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4 International Flights including Beirut to Amman

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.

This tour starts in Beirut (BEY) and ends in Amman (AMM). You will also need to arrange a flight between Beirut and Amman to link together the two sections of this tour. This can either be purchased as a single ticket (for example with Middle East Airlines), or as part of your overall international flight ticket. Your airport transfers are included at both ends and you may fly at any time during the day.

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5 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

Our **small-group tours** in Lebanon and Jordan run with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 18 travellers in the group.

Tailor-made tours are priced based on 2 people travelling. Discounts and customised quotations will be provided if you are travelling in a larger party.

In Lebanon we provide fully trained, local English-speaking guides for all of the sightseeing tours.

In Jordan we provide an English speaking local tour leader/driver and specialist guides in Jerash, Amman and Petra. Groups of 6 or more will have both a driver and a professional guide throughout the trip. At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

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6 Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

Lebanon:

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. If you visit any sites not mentioned in the itinerary then you will need to cover the entrance fee costs.

Jordan:

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

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** suitable for this tour is JD70 (approx. US$99). 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

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7 Tipping

Tipping is common practice in Lebanon and 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. USD 3-5 per person per day for your driver and USD 3-8 per person per day for your guide would be appropriate.

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8 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you on this tour. 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 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.

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9 Dates & Prices

Small-group departure dates run regularly all year round, starting on Saturdays. The tour is also available privately on any other dates if our group tour dates don't work for you or if you would prefer to travel in just your own party. Please contact us for more information and prices to fit your preferred dates and number of travellers.

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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.

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.

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

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

23 Money - Lebanon

The local currency in Lebanon is the Lebanese Pound (called Lira). You do not need to arrange to bring any Lebanese currency with you 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 additional fees - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

Due to the huge recent devaluation of the Lebanese currency, if you withdraw money from an ATM or pay for things with your credit card you will be charged the official bank exchange rate which is very different to the actual operating rate used locally. We therefore recommend that you bring enough US Dollars or Euros in cash with you to cover your required spending money during the tour and do not plan to use your credit card while in Lebanon. You can change this hard currency to Lebanese pounds at the current rates while you are there - please ask your guide for assistance on appropriate places to change your money.

While in Lebanon 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 local currency, 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 25-35 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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24 Transfers

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.

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25 Passports and Visas - Lebanon

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.

For many nationalities visiting Lebanon a visa on arrival is possible at Beirut International Airport. This applies to most countries of the Commonwealth, European Union, Russia, Japan and the US continent. Even if you are eligible for a visa on arrival, it is prudent to check up to date requirements with your nearest Lebanese consulate.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Lebanese embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details.

IMPORTANT: The Government of Lebanon denies entry to Israeli passport holders, Israeli visa holders (valid or expired) and those with any evidence of travel to Israel within their passport.