

## Petra and the Bedouin Trail

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**Country(ies):** Jordan

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** AC minivan/minibus

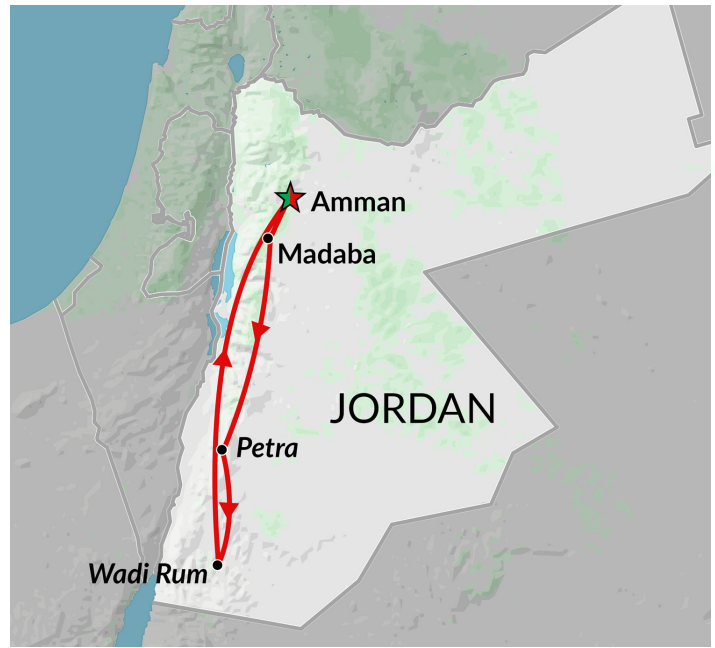
**Group size:** Min: 2 | Max: 12

**Days:** 9 days

**Start Location:** Amman, Jordan

**End Location:** Amman, Jordan

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 6, Dinners - 6



### Highlights:

Hike Petra's Back Route, Conquer the Bedouin Trail in Wadi Rum, Camp Under Desert Stars, Hike to the top of Jordan's highest peak

# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive in Amman and transfer to historic Madaba

On arrival at Queen Alia International Airport, our team will greet you and transfer you to Madaba, a town renowned for its impressive Byzantine mosaics, notably the Madaba Map of the Holy Land. If your arrival is early, you'll have some free time this afternoon where we recommend you the Church of St. George and admire its remarkable mosaic floor.

Check in at your Madaba hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening before your journey continues.

**OVERNIGHT:** Madaba hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Extra Night in Madaba - pre-tour Single Room Supplement (JOSGBE)

## Day 2: Explore Petra via the back-route hiking trail

We'll leave Madaba early today and drive south to the town of Wadi Musa and today is all about exploring the Nabataean site of Petra. It was once the ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106AD. For a long period of time, Petra was forgotten - except by the local Bedouins - before it was rediscovered in 1812 by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Petra can be found at the edge of the Wadi Aruba desert, where canyon walls and towering hills make it virtually impossible to reach, except via a narrow cleft in the rock, known as the Siq. There are very few free-standing buildings in Petra, as the Nabataeans chose to carve their dwellings into the multi coloured sandstone cliffs. Petra has become one of Jordan's main tourist attractions and the Jordanian Government is well aware of this. The tourism infrastructure in the adjoining village of Wadi Musa is booming, though, thankfully, once you enter through the Siq, the site is protected, there aren't that many touts or souvenir sellers, and all the building feels miles away.

We have most of the day available today to explore this ancient city, though as an added bonus, we'll be exploring Petra via the back-route which starts at Little Petra. Before embarking on our hike into Petra, we'll explore the small but equally interesting site of Little Petra, or Siq al-Barid. From here we'll take a short jeep ride to the start of the mountain trail which links Little Petra to the Monastery and main site of Petra.

The back-route into Petra makes for an interesting and much less crowded way of visiting, and what's more, you'll be rewarded with incredible mountain views towards the Holy Land. Whilst hiking the back-route you'll still have the opportunity to see all of the same monuments visited on the normal route, with the addition of Little Petra and the Monastery. The route starts with the ascent of a number of rock hewn steps and paths which straddle the mountain edge. After reaching a plateau, there is an opportunity to stop for refreshments at a small cafe from where you'll have some fantastic photo opportunities. From here the path continues until you'll have a glimpse of 'Ad-Deir' (or the Monastery) where you can have a well deserved rest before descending down into the main site of Petra.

Once in Petra the valley opens out, and you'll see tombs carved into the rock on both sides. You'll get a glimpse of the ruined Roman amphitheatre and colonnaded streets. As we continue through the ancient city of Petra, we'll eventually reach The Khazneh (Treasury) which is probably the most familiar monument of Petra.

Whilst the back-route hike into Petra isn't particularly difficult, as a number of ascents/descents and a significant number of steps are required, this route is only suitable for those who have no issue in hiking in this type of terrain for a minimum of 2-3 hours as far as the Monastery and then a further few hours walking on sandy terrain,

whilst exploring the main site of Petra.

For those with less mobility or who are worried about the distance, horse carriages are available for around 20JD (USD 28) for an agreed period of time (only available within the main site of Petra, not on the hiking route). We do not recommend riding the horses that are available.

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

### **Day 3: Hike from the Wadi Rum visitor centre to Um Ishrin Siq**

Your Bedouin Trail adventure commences with an exhilarating hike through the captivating landscapes of Wadi Rum, beginning at the Visitor Centre. The initial day's route leads you through the Um Ishrin Siq, a breathtaking canyon carved by time and nature, its towering sandstone cliffs creating a dramatic and immersive experience. As you trek through this natural wonder, you'll be constantly mesmerised by the desert's dynamic colour palette. The shifting sunlight paints the vast expanse in a spectrum of red, gold, and ochre hues, creating a visual spectacle that changes with every passing hour. The hike itself is designed to be moderately challenging, allowing you ample opportunity to absorb the profound serenity of the desert environment and connect with its timeless beauty.

Along the trail, you'll encounter remnants of the past, including ancient Nabataean and Thamudic inscriptions etched into the rock faces, offering a glimpse into the lives of those who traversed these lands centuries ago. Notable among these are the famed Anfashieh inscriptions, a collection of petroglyphs that provide valuable insights into the region's historical significance. You'll also encounter natural landmarks that highlight the unique geology of Wadi Rum. Tonight, you'll experience the magic of desert camping near Um Ishrin. As darkness descends, the vast, unpolluted sky will transform into a celestial canvas, illuminated by countless stars, creating an unforgettable and awe-inspiring spectacle. The silence of the desert, broken only by the crackling campfire, will provide a sense of peace and tranquility, allowing you to truly appreciate the beauty of this extraordinary place.

*Distance: 10-12 km | Duration: 5-6 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Camping at Um Ishrin Siq

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

### **Day 4: Hike from Um Ishrin Siq to Lawrence's House & Um Fruth Rock Bridge**

Today's expedition delves further into the heart of Wadi Rum, revealing more of its historical and natural wonders. Your first point of interest is Lawrence's House, the remnants of an ancient Nabataean structure that gained notoriety as a temporary resting place for T.E. Lawrence during the Arab Revolt. You'll have time to explore the site, absorbing the atmosphere of this historic location and contemplating the stories it holds. The surrounding landscape, with its rugged beauty, provides a tangible link to the past and the legendary figure of Lawrence of Arabia.

Continuing your hike, the trail leads towards the iconic Um Fruth Rock Bridge, a natural sandstone arch that stands as one of Wadi Rum's most photographed landmarks. This remarkable geological formation offers a unique opportunity for some light scrambling, allowing you to ascend to its summit and be rewarded with

brehtaking panoramic views of the surrounding desert. From this elevated vantage point, you'll gain a true appreciation for the vastness and grandeur of Wadi Rum, with its undulating dunes, towering cliffs, and ever-changing colours. The interplay of light and shadow on the sandstone creates a captivating visual display, making this a truly memorable experience.

As the day draws to a close, your campsite will be established in the vicinity of Um Fruth, providing a tranquil setting for relaxation and reflection. As the sun sets, casting long shadows across the desert landscape, you'll gather around the campfire, sharing stories and experiences with your fellow travellers. The warmth of the fire, the silence of the desert, and the brilliance of the starlit sky will create an unforgettable atmosphere, allowing you to connect with the timeless beauty of Wadi Rum.

*Distance: 8-10 km | Duration: 5-6 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Camping at Um Fruth Rock Bridge

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 5: Hike from Um Fruth Rock Bridge to Um Muqur & Ascent of Jebel Umm Ad-Dami**

Today presents the most demanding, yet ultimately gratifying, segment of your Wadi Rum trek. Following a substantial breakfast to fuel your endeavours, you'll embark on a journey towards Um Muqur, a serene desert location nestled at the base of Jebel Umm ad-Dami, Jordan's highest peak. This mountain, rising majestically from the desert floor, offers a unique opportunity to experience the rugged terrain and panoramic vistas that define this region.

The ascent of Jebel Umm ad-Dami involves a moderately challenging climb, requiring a degree of scrambling as you approach the summit. While not technically difficult, the terrain demands a steady pace and a willingness to navigate rocky sections. Upon reaching the peak, standing at an impressive 1,854 meters above sea level, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking, uninterrupted views. The panorama encompasses the vast expanse of the Wadi Rum desert, stretching out in a tapestry of colours and textures. On a clear day, the horizon extends beyond Jordan's borders, offering glimpses of the landscape of Saudi Arabia. The sheer scale and beauty of the scene provide a profound sense of accomplishment.

After savouring the summit's majesty and capturing memorable photographs, you'll begin the descent, carefully retracing your steps to the base of the mountain. Here, your campsite will be prepared, offering a welcome respite after the day's exertions. The evening is dedicated to rest and reflection, allowing you to contemplate the day's achievement and the stunning landscapes you've traversed. As the sun sets, casting long shadows across the desert, you can relax under the starlit sky, sharing stories and enjoying the tranquility of the desert environment. This is a moment to appreciate the physical challenge you've overcome and the extraordinary beauty of Wadi Rum.

*Distance: 16-18 km | Duration: 7-8 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Camping at Um Muqur

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 6: Hike from Jebel Umm Ad-Dami to Jebel Burdah**

Today's trek offers a slightly more relaxed pace, allowing you to savour the scenic transition from Jebel Umm ad-Dami to the vicinity of Jebel Burdah, home to the renowned Burdah Rock Bridge. This hike provides a captivating journey through the quintessential Wadi Rum landscape, characterised by its vibrant reddish-orange sands and imposing, dramatic cliffs. The terrain, while still rugged, allows for a more leisurely appreciation of the surrounding natural beauty, offering ample opportunities to capture the iconic desert vistas.

The Burdah Rock Bridge itself is a testament to the power of natural forces, a magnificent arch sculpted by wind and time. Reaching the summit of this natural wonder requires a degree of scrambling, adding an element of adventure to the experience. Once atop, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views that stretch across the vast desert plains. The sheer scale and beauty of the landscape unfold before you, offering a unique perspective on the timeless grandeur of Wadi Rum. The play of light and shadow on the sandstone cliffs and dunes creates a mesmerising spectacle, making this a truly unforgettable moment.

As the day concludes, your campsite will be established in the proximity of the Burdah Rock Bridge, providing a tranquil setting for relaxation and contemplation. With the day's hike complete, the remainder of the evening is yours to enjoy the serene ambience of the desert. As the sun sets, casting long shadows across the landscape, you can unwind under the starlit sky, immersing yourself in the profound silence and tranquility of Wadi Rum. This is a time to reflect on the day's experiences and appreciate the natural wonders that surround you.

*Distance: 8-10 km | Duration: 4-5 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Camping at Jebel Burdah

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 7: Hike from Jebel Burdah to Burrah Canyon

Following a nourishing breakfast, your Wadi Rum exploration continues with a trek towards the captivating Burrah Canyon. This narrow, picturesque gorge, framed by imposing rock formations, offers a striking contrast to the open desert landscapes you've traversed. The hike through Burrah Canyon is designed to be relatively gentle, providing an opportunity for contemplative walking and allowing you to fully appreciate the canyon's serene atmosphere and impressive scale.

The unique topography of Burrah Canyon creates a play of light and shadow, with sunlit rock walls contrasting with the deep shadows cast within the gorge. This interplay of light adds to the canyon's atmospheric charm, creating a tranquil and visually compelling experience. As you walk through the canyon, you'll have ample time to observe the intricate details of the rock formations, the subtle variations in colour, and the sense of peace that pervades this secluded space.

Your campsite for the night will be strategically located near the entrance or within the vicinity of Burrah Canyon, ensuring another opportunity to immerse yourself in the unparalleled beauty of Wadi Rum under the starlit desert sky. As the sun sets, casting long shadows across the canyon walls, you can relax and reflect on the day's journey, enjoying the tranquility and solitude that the desert offers. The clear night sky, illuminated by countless stars, provides a breathtaking backdrop for an evening of quiet contemplation and camaraderie.

*Distance: 8-10 km | Duration: 4-5 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Camping at Burrah Canyon

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 8: Hike from Burrah Canyon to Wadi Rum Village and return to Amman

Your concluding day in the awe-inspiring Wadi Rum commences with a gentle trek through the breathtaking Siq Um Tawaqi. This spectacular canyon, with its towering rock walls and dramatic formations, provides a fitting finale to your desert journey, guiding you back towards the village of Wadi Rum. As you traverse this remarkable landscape, you'll encounter the Siq Lawrence, a site of historical significance linked to the legendary Lawrence of Arabia. This location serves as a poignant reminder of the region's rich history and its enduring connection to this iconic figure.

The trail gradually descends, leading you through the diverse terrain of Wadi Rum, showcasing the varied landscapes that have defined your adventure. The path meanders through canyons and across open plains, offering a final opportunity to absorb the unique beauty and serenity of this extraordinary desert environment. The trek culminates at the Wadi Rum Visitor Centre, marking the official end of your immersive desert experience. Here, you'll have the chance to express your gratitude and bid farewell to your Bedouin guides, whose expertise and hospitality have enriched your journey. This moment of farewell is a testament to the strong bonds forged amidst the shared experiences of the desert.

Following this heartfelt farewell, you'll embark on a comfortable transfer to Amman, leaving behind the captivating landscapes of Wadi Rum and carrying with you the memories of an unforgettable adventure. The transition from the tranquil desert to the bustling city provides a contrasting experience, allowing you to reflect on the diverse facets of Jordan's beauty and culture.

*Distance: 6-7 km | Duration: 4-5 hours.*

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 9: Free time in Amman, hotel to airport transfer included**

Your time is free in Amman today until we pick you up from your hotel and transfer you to the airport for your departure. Further sightseeing tours are available today if you have a late afternoon or evening flight, including a trip to the Baptism Site at Bethany on the Jordan River. This tour also connects well with several of our Egypt and Israel tours; please contact us for ideas and help with connections.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Extra Night in Amman (3-star) - post-tour

**Included:**

- 3 nights in 3-star hotels in Madaba, Petra & Amman
- 5 nights camping along the Bedouin Trail in Wadi Rum
- The Back Route hike into Petra with a local Guide
- The Bedouin Trail hike in Wadi Rum with a Bedouin Guide
- All Camping Equipment (tents, bedding and sleeping mats)
- Portable Toilet and Bag Showers whilst camping
- Snacks and Energy Bars whilst hiking in Wadi Rum
- Entrance Fees to Petra and Wadi Rum
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (all meals whilst camping, breakfast only on hotel stays)

**Excluded:**

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, [available from Encounters Travel](#))
- 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**

N/A

# Options

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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.

## 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.**

## Single Room Supplement (JOSGBE)

Min numbers: 1

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. It is not required if you are happy to share a room.

**Note:** Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

## Extra Night in Madaba - 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 Night in Amman (3-star) - 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 departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

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## 1. Accommodation

The hotels used on this tour are rated at the Jordanian 3-star level. Local star ratings may vary from international standards. 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.

While camping in Wadi Rum, we provide all the equipment you'll need for a comfortable night's sleep in the desert. This includes:

- **Tents:** Spacious and weatherproof tents for shelter.
- **Sleeping Bags and Mattresses:** Ensuring a good night's rest.
- **Portable Toilet:** For your convenience.
- **Shower Bags:** So you can freshen up after a day of hiking.
- **Water Station:** A designated water station with a focus on sustainability, allowing you to refill reusable bottles and minimise waste.

This section of the trip offers a more basic style of accommodation, getting you away from the usual tourist trail and allowing you to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Wadi Rum. With these essentials provided, you can relax and enjoy the unique experience of camping under the stars.

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

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## 2. Activity Level

This tour includes several walks or hikes in Jordan and while you do not need to be super fit by any means, you should bring suitable footwear and be prepared for some long days and be prepared for your off-grid experience.

In Petra, you will be doing a lot of walking to explore the site. This tour includes the back route hike from Little Petra, to the Monastery and then through the main site of Petra. Whilst the back-route hike into Petra isn't particularly difficult, as a number of ascents/descents and a significant number of steps are required, this route is only suitable for those who have no issue in hiking in this type of terrain for a minimum of 2-3 hours as far as the Monastery and then a further few hours walking on sandy terrain, whilst exploring the main site of Petra. You can take everything at your own pace, but do be prepared for a long day. Again comfortable walking shoes and a daypack are required.

Prepare for an immersive experience in the heart of Wadi Rum, where you'll spend five nights wild camping in various stunning locations within the reserve. We provide all the necessary camping equipment, including tents, sleeping bags, and mattresses (though you're welcome to bring your own pillow - an inflatable one is recommended).

During the day, you'll embark on invigorating hikes through the reserve's diverse landscapes, discovering fascinating and culturally significant sites. Be prepared to cover distances between 8 and 17km daily, spending approximately 4 to 8 hours on your feet.

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## 3. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. So, on our small group tours we won't ever put you in a full size coach packed with other people and just one guide.

This tour has a minimum group size of 2, and maximum of 12.

To accompany you on the tour we provide an English speaking local tour guide whilst in Petra and a Bedouin Guide whilst hiking in Wadi Rum. Groups of 6 or more will have both a driver and a professional guide throughout the trip.

At Encounters Travel we only use local Jordanian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

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#### **4. Transport**

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

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

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#### **5. Transfers**

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

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

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#### **6. International Flights**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Flight CO2 Emissions:**

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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## 7. Tipping

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

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

Drivers: US\$3-5 per person per day

Restaurants: 10% or leave the change

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

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## 8. What to take

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Headlamp/flashlight** for nighttime
  - Personal **medication and first aid items**
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## 9. Entrance fees & Jordan Pass

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

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

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

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** which is suitable for all our tours which visit Petra on one day is JD70 (approx. US\$99). You should also check if your tour visits the Baptism Site at Bethany and if it does, add on the supplement for this site (an extra JD8, discounted from the JD12 payable at the site). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. [Obtain your Jordan Pass here](#)

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

[More information about the Jordan Pass.](#)

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## 10. Booking & Payment

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

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## 11. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled

products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

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## 12. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

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

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

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## 13. Follow Us Online

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

[www.facebook.com/encounterstravel](http://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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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## 20. Voltage

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

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## 21. Time

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

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## 22. Health and Vaccinations

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

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

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diptheria, Hepatitis A

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

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

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

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**Printed on:** Tuesday 16th of June 2026

**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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